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Voice

THE OF DORDT COLLEGE

FALL 2013
VOLUME 59 | ISSUE 1 OF 3

DEFENDERS

They work, play, study, give, intern, and encourage.
They serve, write, care, manage, sing, create, and laugh.
And many of them gathered for the first annual Defender Days in October.

Leading Off

WITH THE PRESIDENT

SINGING THE GOSPEL

I admit it. I can't read music. I always sing the melody. The psalmist often speaks of harmonious praise, but I'm more of a "Shout to the Lord" participant, doing my best to "make a joyful noise"—with the emphasis on noise.

Still, the texts of the great hymns and psalms carried on wonderful tunes and melodies have always been a tremendously powerful way in which God speaks to me—at least as powerful as the words spoken in a worship service. Whether at a wedding, funeral, chapel, or Sunday worship, the power of singing as a worship community has shaped my faith and helped it grow.



I was struck by the power of song again earlier this fall as I stood in chapel with nearly 900 students, singing the Hillsong tune, "Hosanna." This verse encapsulates our work here at Dordt College:

I see a generation,
Rising to take its place,
With selfless faith,
With selfless faith

This issue of the *Voice* focuses on many of the new things happening here at Dordt College this year—facilities, people, programs, and opportunities that we believe will help our students take their places in homes and communities and professions around the world.

Another song we sang in chapel this fall had the same kind of impact on me and how I view our work here. Hearing the student body passionately sing Michael W. Smith's "Ancient Words" assures me that while we are busy here at Dordt College in many new ways, the essence of what we do lies in the application of the "old, old story" in today's cultural context and for each new generation.

This is what we've always done at Dordt College, and what we always will do—God helping us. Taking those ancient words given to us by the Word made Flesh and applying that Word to our lives—individually and communally throughout culture—is, and always will be, the heart of a Dordt College education.

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the ancient words impart

Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts
Oh, let the ancient words impart

DR. ERIK HOEKSTRA

Voice

THE OF DORDT COLLEGE

FALL 2013

VOLUME 59 | ISSUE 1

The *Voice*, an outreach of Dordt College, is sent to you as alumni and friends of Christian higher education. The *Voice* is published three times each year to share information about the programs, activities, and people at Dordt College.

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Our Mission

As an institution of higher education committed to a Reformed Christian perspective, Dordt College equips students, alumni, and the broader community to work effectively toward Christ-centered renewal in all aspects of contemporary life.

On the Cover

Pictured are Siri Nelson and Joel Ysselstein. Photo by Jamin Ver Velde ('99)



Inside

THIS ISSUE

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18 New apps, screen casting, Galaxy TAB 2 tablets, and geographic information systems are changing the way students learn.

20 Dr. Jay Shim and several of his students share their



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS: WORK AND SOME PLAY

Calvin Leader (center) was surprised at how much fun he had as a computer programmer at Johns Hopkins University Physics Laboratory this summer. He and two other interns won a three-legged race competition one day, earning themselves Dunkin' Donuts and coffee for the next week.

vision of living in God's world with Korean elementary school students.

Days combines our traditional Parents Weekend and Alumni Weekend celebrations, creating a beehive of activity on campus on October 18 and 19.

ALUMNI

33 Check out what your classmates are up to in the Alumni Bits columns at the back of the issue. And while you're at it, take a moment to send us a job or family update to share in the next issue.

34 The first annual Defender

36 2013 Distinguished Alumnus Harry Fernhout ('70) spent his professional career educating for *shalom*.

40 2013 Distinguished Alumna Tammy Walhof ('84) works for justice for those who are hungry and living in poverty.

BRICK BY BRICK, AND BEAM BY BEAM

All summer we watched the heavy machinery tear up and then build up the area between the classroom building and the science building. Bricks rose, row upon row, perfectly patterned, to form walls that gradually filled in what was only last spring a road through campus. Huge cranes dangled massive steel beams like toothpicks before setting them in place, two stories high. One day this fall, 12 rotating cement trucks idled in line, waiting to empty their loads so hard-hatted workers could quickly spread it in place.



It's exciting to watch new buildings take shape. You get to see the carefully planned details you'll never see and likely never think about again once the structure is finished. And you begin to anticipate the new possibilities it will bring.

Building a foundation for living is a bit like that. Students learn, layer by layer, a wide array of things that make them strong and rooted people who can make a difference in their world.

We participate in the construction process, you see the results.

SALLY JONGSMA, EDITOR

MODULES GET STUDENTS READY FOR WORK PLACE

“No lace. Definitely no lace.” “Make sure your tie knot is snug.”

These were some of the pointers alumni business panelists shared with students in one of the one-credit modules now being offered by the business department.

Three modules were designed to cover topics that faculty felt were missing from the program or that could benefit from being covered in a more focused way.

“We asked our alumni to tell us about gaps they found in their training when they began a job,” says Professor Tim Klein. Three areas came up: professional practices, advanced Excel, and QuickBooks.

Although each of these topics was being addressed in some way in courses the department offered, they didn’t fit anywhere perfectly and they didn’t warrant a whole course. The one-credit modules help students develop specific skills that will help them as they apply for and begin a job.

The one-credit modules meet other goals too. They allow students who have a full load, but don’t want to add another full course because of time or money, to have a middle option.

“It’s particularly helpful for accounting majors who need more than the number of credits

needed to graduate before they can take the CPA exam,” says Klein.

The modules also give local business people opportunities to learn specific skills they use daily. The classes, offered over lunch hour, meet for five weeks each.

Klein had five community members from local businesses take his Excel module.

“It was wonderful for students to hear the questions asked by employees in local businesses and listen to them talk about how they use Excel,” says Klein. These business people, in turn, learned new short cuts and gained greater familiarity with a program they use regularly.

Erica Vonk, the business administration department assistant, taught the Professional Practices module to business students as well as students from other majors.

“Before, there were bits and pieces of information students should know about preparing to be involved in the business world sprinkled throughout several courses. This module allows us to address topics more deliberately,” says Vonk. It also frees up time in other courses for other topics.

Students in Vonk’s course learn such things as how to look for and apply for jobs, do practice

THUMBS UP

Junior Nikki Dykstra has taken two of the one-credit modules and is glad she did.

“We received good advice on how to dress professionally and write cover letters and résumés. We went to a real business to do a mock interview and got feedback about how we were doing from someone other than our professor.”

About the Advanced Excel class, she says, “If you know shortcuts and formulas for Excel you become much more efficient in your work!”



DANIEL WOLDENBERG (16)

interviews, and understand personal and workplace etiquette for business.

In Professor Shirley Folkerts’ QuickBooks module, students learned the basics of using QuickBooks, a computerized accounting software program used by many small business owners to manage their books and create financial reports. They set up customer and vendor accounts and processed payroll and inventory for a small business, just as they would in a real business.

“Accounting students may someday have clients who use QuickBooks,” says Folkerts. “Or they may start their own business. It’s a good skill to be able to put on a résumé.”

The modules are being offered for the second time this year.

SALLY JONGSMA



E. Vonk



S. Folkerts

JAMIN VER VELDE '99)



ENLACED

A sculpture symbolizing unity and community was installed on campus this summer. *Enlaced: A Burning Bush, Psalm 19*, was designed by Art Professor David Versluis.

"The sculpture speaks to the reality described in Psalm 19 that all creation celebrates the glory of God," Versluis said.

Several years ago, the college Art Committee, which maintains Dordt's art collection, took up a donor's suggestion to add a sculpture. They asked art faculty for proposals.

Inspired by an essay by Calvin Seerveld on the symbolism of the burning bush, Versluis proposed *Enlaced*, a design idea he had been working on for years. The seven upright metal forms of different heights and curves are made of COR-TEN steel, which rusts and re-forms when exposed to the weather.

"I like the simplicity of the form. It's a simple, powerful presence on campus," Versluis said.

Students, who have nicknamed the piece "French Fries," are still getting used to the sculpture. Senior Cody Vander Berg, who helped with the installation, thinks it looks a bit large in front of Covenant Hall.

Versluis feels the piece "relates beautifully" to the buildings around it.

"The sculpture adds mystery to the area and enhances the symmetry of the buildings," he said.

Regarding the nickname, "I guess I can see that," Versluis said. "The sculpture has ambiguity, and humor can be part of the interaction with the piece. As an artist, you learn not to take yourself too seriously."



David Versluis

ECKSTROM EARNs AWARD IN OXFORD

Senior Caroline Eckstrom was the recipient of the prestigious de Jager award for exceptional academic performance during her Scholars' Semester in Oxford last spring.

The Scholars' Semester in Oxford is one of many study-abroad programs offered by the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities of which Dordt College is a member. The program draws high-achieving students who learn from one another while studying in traditional Oxford tutorial style. Eckstrom and the other 34 students from the United States who were on the program lived together in Oxford, but they all studied different topics. Eckstrom attended a weekly tutorial on modern British literature. In a tutorial, students are responsible for their own learning; the tutor merely guides their research by asking questions, engaging them in discussion, and facilitating the one-on-one meetings.

Students in the Scholars' Semester also participate in a four-week integrative seminar. Eckstrom challenged herself to study something out of her comfort zone: the history of art. She ran after professors in Oxford's great Ashmolean art museum, met with grizzled tutors in small English pubs, and attended a lecture series on Vienna. She also wrote a 4,000-word essay in which she compared the Austrian poet Hugo von Hoffmansthal and artist Gustav Klimt. The finished product, titled "The Spirit of an Age," won her the award. The de Jager award, named after philanthropists Geoffrey and Caroline de Jager, is given to several students in the Scholars' Semester program each year.

This new way of learning took some getting used to, but Eckstrom loved it.

"The great thing about tutorials is that you never feel lectured at, because you are directing your own learning. It completely redirects your idea of school," she said.

What did she take away from the semester? "A lot of humility. It really reveals how much you don't know and that learning is not about good grades or being better than the next person. Everything was a learning experience. The semester gave me a new perspective, a new view of school and life."

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Caroline enjoyed "cream tea," complete with scones and clotted cream, after a chilly January afternoon at Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Churchill.

Campus Kudos

Dordt College seniors Josh Nymeyer, Bryce Schelhaas, and Sam Verhulst took first place in the 2013 Undergraduate Class Project Competition for "Which Traits Attract Women: Appearance, Intelligence, Wealth, or Strength?" The competition, sponsored by Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE), is the only national undergraduate statistics project competition. <http://bit.ly/1cup8lc>.

Thursday May 30 was "Quentin Van Essen Day" at the (NACCAP) North American Coalition of Christian Admissions Professionals' annual conference at Messiah College. He received the NACCAP Lifetime Achievement Award at the evening dinner in recognition of his service and leadership in the admissions profession. Van Essen plans to retire next spring.



Q. Van Essen

Seniors Justin Gloudemans and Jayson Korthuis earned an Award of Excellence, the top honor bestowed by the Videography Awards, for their 12-minute video showing the need for education and agriculture in Mozambique. The video can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/69552229>.

Senior John Stam and Junior Craig Disselkoen took first place in the Ethics Competition at the annual IEEE Region 4 Student Leadership Conference held this year at the University of Minnesota: Twin Cities. Dordt students have attended this conference only twice, both times taking the top honors in the competition. The conference included engineering students from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan.

For the second year in a row, Dordt College is ranked sixth on the *U.S. News & World Report's* list of Best Regional Colleges in the Midwest. Dordt has also been recognized as a top regional college by *Forbes.com*, *The Princeton Review*, and *Washington Monthly*. The 2014 America's Best Colleges detailed ranking information is available on the *U.S. News & World Report* website at www.usnews.com.

Senior Amanda Donnell was awarded the ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) Iowa Section annual scholarship and TJ Wells received their Outstanding Senior Award.



WHAT'S NEW?

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

After a slow start due to wet weather this spring, construction on the Science and Technology Center is on schedule. Phase 1 joins the Ribbens Academic Complex to the science building and expands the south side of the building to provide lab space for the engineering program.

DANIEL WOUTENBERG (16)



DORDT DINING SERVICES

Serving delicious, nutritious food is the goal of the college's new dining services provider. The Zeeland, Michigan-based company serves more than 25 different colleges. Creative Dining Services, parent company of Dordt Dining Services, employs a staff nutritionist to address student dietary needs.

LIBRARY

The library staff undertook a full review of all print journal subscriptions. Their efforts led to a more useful collection and significant cost savings.

NEW EMPHASIS

The engineering department added chemical engineering to its list of concentrations. Chemical engineers develop equipment and processes that convert both natural and recycled resources into fuels and materials for the everyday products that we use.

MOBILE WEBSITE

Dordt launched a mobile website over the summer, providing a concise overview of the college in a mobile-friendly format. It includes information about sports, admissions, academics, and news. Mobile website users will be directed to the site when they visit Dordt's homepage, and desktop or tablet users can view it by going to m.dordt.edu.

RECORD TIED



DEAN RIGGOTT

Thanks to a large freshman class, strong numbers of transfer students, and a growing international student body, Dordt College tied its record for highest enrollment with 1,430 students, a record set in 1999. This fall Dordt welcomed 380 freshman and 46 transfer students.

Nearly 10 percent of students are international students representing more than 25 countries. The largest number of students come from our nearest neighbor, Canada. The numbers continue to grow and international students are helping shape the campus.

MISSION-MINDED RUNNERS

Two members of Dordt's women's cross country team kept busy with more than training last summer.

Juniors Lauren Opp and Renee Buikema left their home states of Iowa and Wisconsin, respectively, and worked for non-profits, Opp doing mission work in Uganda and Buikema working with Habitat for Humanity in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Opp, an exercise science major with a biomedical sciences minor, took a six-week trip with Africa Inland Mission to the poor rural areas of Uganda.

"[We saw] people just barely surviving, barely having enough to eat or drink or maybe having one set of clothes," said Opp. "In one village, the people lived on sorghum and sunflower seeds, and that was their entire diet."

During the visit, Opp's team helped in a clinic for disabled children, developed Bible studies and worship events for the community, and played games with the local children. For her, the most important—and challenging—aspect was building relationships with people living in such extreme poverty.

"It was tough not to feel really hopeless, like, 'Why are we here? What can we really do for these people?'" said Opp.

Lauren Opp



"One thing I took away from the trip was that no matter what someone's suffering is, we always have something to offer them—Jesus' love."

Buikema spent nearly 300 hours over the summer working at Habitat for Humanity.

"I have a really big passion for nonprofits, and this experience added to that passion when I saw what they're doing," Buikema said.

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization that revitalizes neighborhoods by building homes and buying out their mortgages. In this way, the organization can provide mortgages with zero percent interest to families who need homes.

Buikema worked with volunteers at building sites.

"Being a part of a nonprofit is just really amazing," said Buikema. "It helps you to see how God is using the resources that he's given so many people."

A business administration/human resources major, Buikema had expected to be in a human resources role for Habitat. As it turned out, being in the center of the building activities was what she enjoyed most.

"It's cool how God takes your expectations and totally changes them," Buikema said.

Opp and Buikema both found time to keep running throughout their busy summers. Opp, especially, didn't know if she would be able to train when she left for Uganda, but she met a friend on the trip

who she ran with every morning.

"I was actually able to run almost every day, so that was a major blessing," said Opp.

Opp, the conference's third-place finisher in 2012, was Dordt's top runner in this year's first five meets. Buikema also

"It was tough not to feel really hopeless, like, 'Why are we here? What can we really do for these people?'"

—Junior Lauren Opp

placed in the squad's top five in three of the five races.

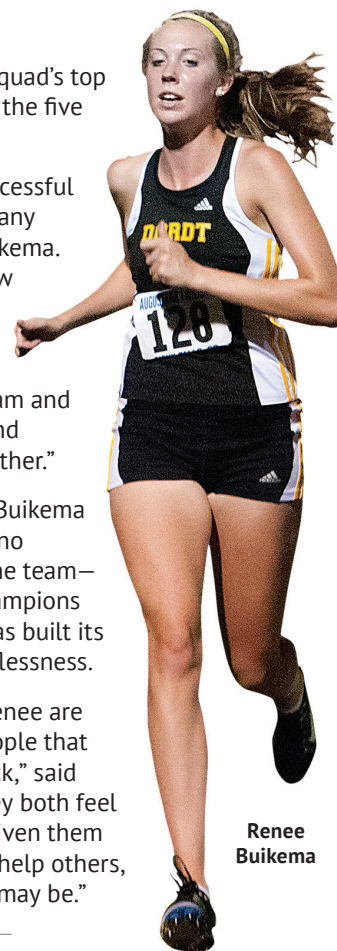
"It's been a successful season in so many ways," said Buikema.

"Not just in how we're running, but in how we're really becoming a team and encouraging and loving one another."

With Opp and Buikema as leaders, it's no surprise that the team—conference champions last season—has built its success on selflessness.

"Lauren and Renee are the type of people that like to give back," said Van Dyke. "They both feel that God has given them the passion to help others, wherever that may be."

SAMEKSTROM (*14)



Renee Buikema

PHOTO BY VANESSA BARTELS ('09)



ACSI visitors praised Dordt's Professional Development School, calling it "an incredible opportunity for students and a game-changer for preparing pre-service teachers." Professors like David Mulder bring years of elementary teaching experience to the college classroom.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EARNS ACSI CERTIFICATION

The close of the 2012-13 school year brought good news to Dordt's education department, the largest major on Dordt's campus. The department was accepted as a certified member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). ACSI includes approximately 24,000 schools around the world, making it the largest group of Protestant educational institutions. Beginning with the class of 2013, education majors graduating from Dordt College will receive ACSI certification along with their diplomas.



T. Van Soelen

Dordt education students and graduates will find that they'll have easier access to an extensive network of Christian schools and to educational resources that are now available as a result of ACSI membership. Faculty will benefit, too, because they will more naturally interact with education professionals in ACSI schools and the broader Christian education community.

One of the biggest benefits, though, was ACSI's review of the department, which highly validated the department's work. The department is always eager for feedback and evaluation of its program, according to Education Professor Tim Van Soelen. As part of their certification process, ACSI visitors assessed the mission and vision of the department from a Christian perspective—something state evaluations are unable to do. ACSI found the education department offered an excellent teacher education program, demonstrating real consistency between the program's documentation and its actual practice.

ELIZABETH RILEY (15)

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM IS REACCREDITED

In July, the social work department learned that the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) awarded full reaccreditation to Dordt's four-year bachelor of social work degree program through 2021.

CSWE's site visitors said, "The program is clearly student-centered," adding, "The faculty demonstrated excellent rapport with the students and a genuine respect for student input."



A. Foreman

They also noted that "the program's goal to encourage 'students and the community to engage in service by responding to needs and challenging injustices is a firmly held religious value of the college and the community in which the college is situated.'"

"We feel incredibly affirmed in CSWE's recognition that we deliver a high-quality education that equips our students for professional social work practice," said Professor Abby Foreman. "The program is recognized for its direct connection to the mission of Dordt College—to equip students in the work of Christ-centered renewal by loving our neighbors and working toward redemption in a broken world."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities in the field of social work are projected to grow at a higher than average pace in the next 10 years, with most growth taking place in health care and social services settings.



DANIEL WOLDENBERG (16)

NURSING IS REAPPROVED

In September, Dordt's nursing department received word that the Iowa Board of Nursing had granted full approval to the program for six years. The department submitted a detailed report in February 2013 and hosted an on-site visit from representatives of the Iowa Board of Nursing in April 2013. Last spring, Dordt's nursing program graduated its largest class, sending 24 registered nurses with bachelor's degrees into hospitals and clinics around the country. Mary Catherine (Tien) Baas wrote: "Even in just five weeks of working full time, I am seeing how blessed I am to have had my nursing education at Dordt." A new group will begin in January, and applications are still being accepted.

PROVOST FORSETH LEADS ALONGSIDE

Dr. Eric Forseth's early impressions of Dordt College were shaped by its teacher education candidates.

They were so purposeful, so obviously centered," he says. On visits to Dordt's campus to interview prospective teachers, he observed a commitment by faculty and administrators to learn, live, and lead Christianly. As he read about Dordt's educational vision, he came to the conclusion that Dordt's educational documents were a lived vision. He was eager to be part of that.

"In my last leadership roles, I was asked to be a change agent," he says. At Dordt he sees his role as helping move a "purposeful focus" forward.

As chief academic officer at Dordt College, Forseth oversees athletics, curriculum and instruction, scholarship and research, and global education initiatives. He brings experience in all of those areas. He has served as chief executive officer of Nampa Christian Schools, vice president and professor of business at Northwest Nazarene

University and Mount Vernon Nazarene University, as well as athletic director, department chair, athletic trainer, and soccer coach at those institutions.

Forseth describes his leadership style as "side-by-side," "co-leading in a collaborative spirit."

"I expect to come with ideas and then count on others to help shape them to make them better," he says. As the middle child of seven, he's learned to be "okay with lots of input," and he's learned that aggressive leadership doesn't always work. Being humble is not only a better stance, it usually enables a person to be more effective, he believes.

"The journey is as important as the destination," he says, adding, "It's important to have graceful interaction when we deal with others." He plans to spend time listening and encouraging. He believes that a positive attitude and encouraging actions can move people and institutions further and faster toward reaching their goals.

Forseth loves creating opportunities that help others get better at what they do. He considers an hour with a faculty member, exploring how they can improve their teaching or reach their goals, to be one well spent. He tries to be directive and encouraging.

"How do we live Christianly? How are we called to live professionally and personally? How can we encourage

one another to have a transforming impact on others and on culture? How do we address areas of culture that some might find uncomfortable or that others aren't addressing? Those are questions to constantly ask ourselves," says Forseth.

"Dordt College is poised to grow and spread its covenant kingdom vision," Forseth says. "The more we do, the more influence we can have on our world." He is already convinced that Dordt is a quality institution. It's why he came. He also believes it can be even better by continuously improving and creatively thinking "outside of the box."

"Dordt is a bit like a diamond in the rough," he says. He looks forward to helping with the polishing.

SALLY JONGSMA

ABOUT ERIC

Education: Denver Christian Schools, Northwest Nazarene University, University of Arizona, Harvard University, and Ohio State University

Family: Wife of 28 years, Kim; two children, the youngest a junior at Dordt; great-great grandfather Henry Hospers, the founder of neighboring Orange City, Iowa

Shaping influences: growing up with his mother's 24-year struggle with Lou Gehrig's disease; a maternal heritage of Reformed pastors; a father who believed in the power of cultural transformation

Exciting opportunities: Growth of majors that expand a kingdom-covenant emphasis; expansion of student enrollment; continued emphasis on residential student experience; continuous improvement; new master's programs; sharing Dordt with a broader Christian community



Faculty Bits

The American Statistical Association (ASA) awarded the Waller Education Award to Dr. **Nathan Tintle**, at a ceremony held August 4 during the Joint Statistical Meeting in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

Other professional activities include: a paper, Petersen A*, Alvarez C*, DeClaire S*, Tintle NL "Assessing methods for assigning SNPs to genes in gene-based tests of association using common variants. PLoS One. May 31, 2013. <http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0062161>; oral presentations: (1) Randomization and simulation in the first Statistics Course.

(2) A geometric framework for gene-based rare variant tests of association. South Dakota State University. September 2013, and "Challenging the state of the art in post-introductory statistics: preparation, concepts and pedagogy." ISI/IASE. Hong Kong, China, August 2013; and invited panelist, "Is the 'world' ready for a simulation approach to introductory topics?" Joint Statistics Meetings. Montreal, QC, August 2013.

Dr. **Channon Visscher** has been awarded \$55,685 to continue a research project titled "Collaborative Research: Characterizing Cloudy Exoplanet Atmospheres." The National Science Foundation grant will help Visscher and a team of astronomers from the University of California-Santa Cruz improve our understanding of the chemistry and weather of planets outside our solar system. <http://1.usa.gov/17BRR9W>.



Visscher is co-author of Morley et al 2013, "Quantitatively Assessing the Role of Clouds in the Transmission Spectrum of GJ 1214b", *Astrophysical Journal*, 775(1) 33. This is a study of how different clouds may affect the observational properties of the planet GJ 1214b.



JUSTIN VANDER WERFF (100)

Civil and environmental engineers did their bi-annual highway clean-up this fall just south of Sioux Center. The event doubles as a way to show respect for God's world and a time for students to get to know one another a bit better as they work together outside of the classroom.

ENGINEERING CLUB HITS THE ROAD

Even though membership in Dordt's ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) Club changes yearly as engineering students begin and graduate from the program, members faithfully cleaned a stretch of Highway 75 coming into Sioux Center for the past three years. The club became the official caretakers of a two-mile stretch of highway under the state's Adopt-a-Highway program in the spring of 2011.

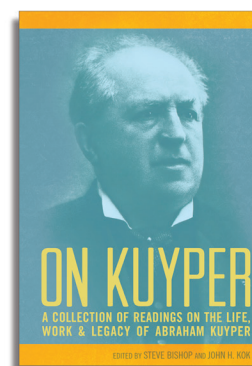
Dordt's civil and environmental engineers were looking for a project that they could do together and that would demonstrate their commitment to helping maintain creation's beauty, according to Professor Justin Vander Werff. Because several Dordt students have participated in internships with the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), they came up with the Adopt-a-Highway idea. They were surprised and happy to find a section of highway 75 available for adoption that is located so close to campus.

Twice a year, in the spring and in the fall, the club organizes a clean-up morning, after which members have lunch together. The Iowa DOT supplies bags and picks them up.

"This is a great opportunity for our

student chapter of ASCE to be able to serve the greater community of Sioux County and for our members to get to know each other outside of the classroom," says Engineering Major and Club President T.J. Wells. "We usually try to outdo each other by finding the most unique piece of trash."

A collection of readings on the life, work, and legacy of Abraham Kuyper



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Steve Bishop
James D. Bratt
Robert S. Covolo
Herman Dooyeweerd
Edward E. Ericson, Jr.
Chris Goussmet
George Harinck
Roger D. Henderson
Peter S. Heslam
Jacob Klapwijk
Catherine M. E. Kuyper
McKendree R. Langley
Timothy I. McConnel
James Edward McGoldrick
Clarence Menninga
Timothy P. Palmer
Del Ratzsch
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Dordt College Press

DENGLER CHOSEN FOR 2013 JOHN CALVIN AWARD

Dr. Mary Dengler entered college confident that she wanted to be a medical doctor. Then she took a required literature class.

"It was like taking in oxygen," she says. "I was so excited and stimulated that I remember thinking, 'This is what I really want to do with my life.'" And she did. She began to fill her class schedule with literature classes and, after graduating, began teaching English and literature. She still finds it exciting and stimulating 39 years later.

Dengler has taught in three Christian high schools, a public university, and two Christian colleges. She has enjoyed the Christian college experience most because she is free to openly talk about how her view of life shapes how she understands literature and language.

"In college, I came to see that teaching is responsible Christian service," she says. She is passing that insight on to her students today.

Dengler adopted a Reformed way of thinking as an undergraduate at Calvin College. With a father she describes as a "traditional Baptist minister" and a mother who was the daughter of a

Reformed Presbyterian missionary, she recalls disagreements over topics like freewill and covenant. It was in college, when she began asking questions like "What does a Christian do?" and "What are we saved for?" that she embraced the Reformed conviction that God is sovereign over all of life, that calling applies to every part of one's life, and that people are created to worship and serve as they promote and live out biblical principles.

"We're redeemed and called to reconcile our living in this world to biblical principles, and that includes language and literature," she says. "Language can be used obediently and disobediently. It can be honest, clear, peacemaking—a powerful tool to help people and institutions flourish. Or it can be used to deceive, to destroy people for one's own benefit."

Grammar takes on a new meaning, she believes, when you understand that proper use of language helps you construct ideas in an honest and clear rather than manipulative way. Literature can teach people about the human condition, give a glimpse of how they fail and why, see examples of purpose and fulfillment in characters' lives, deal with failure and guilt and the desire for transcendence, appreciate creation and its creator, and so much more.

A big challenge for Dengler is deciding what to teach. She wants her students to read current literature and classics. Both help them understand their culture and who they are as products of that culture, to learn from failures, to become critical thinkers, to get a sense of what is important and what is trivial in life.

"The gods of our culture quickly absorb us," she says, listing fashion and

"It's when you're working your hardest that you're most fully alive."

—Mary Dengler

materialism. "Teaching great ideas can help us avoid worshipping false gods."

Dengler admits that most teachers have a love/hate relationship with their work. Whether she's teaching the upper level literature/composition courses or the Kuyper Scholars Program rhetoric classes, her students always amaze her with their questions and insights.

"During the school year it's like being on a moving train," she says, then adds, "but it's when you're working your hardest that you're most fully alive."

The John Calvin Award is presented annually to a faculty member who demonstrates a commitment to teaching from a Calvinistic perspective and for developing and transmitting reformational insight in a discipline.

SALLY JONGSMA

JAMIN VER VELDE (99)



Faculty Bits

Agriculture Professor **Ron Vos** went to Northrise University in Ndola, Zambia, to help with community development, teach an agricultural foundations seminar, develop agriculture curriculum, and build the relationship between Dordt and Northrise. Vos shared some new conservation farming practices that are being used in Africa as guest speaker at the Sioux County Soil and Water Conservation District meeting in August.



President **Erik Hoekstra** spent a week in the Netherlands and one in South Korea attending conferences and speaking, giving the keynote speech at the 6th International Christian University Academic Conference in Kyeongju, South Korea.

English Professor **Bill Elgersma** spent two weeks in May in South Korea interviewing professors and students and observing classes at three universities that send exchange students to Dordt. The experience helped him get a better sense of the students' education and why they are interested in an American English education.



Dr. **Jay Shim** presented two papers this summer: "Reformed Theology as Worldview Theology: Public Nature of the Gospel and theology," in English, delivered at the International Congress of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches held on May 2-8, 2013 in Seoul, Korea, and "Core-curriculum of Christian Colleges," in Korean, delivered at a faculty development program held on June 24-26, 2013 in Kyungjoo, Korea.

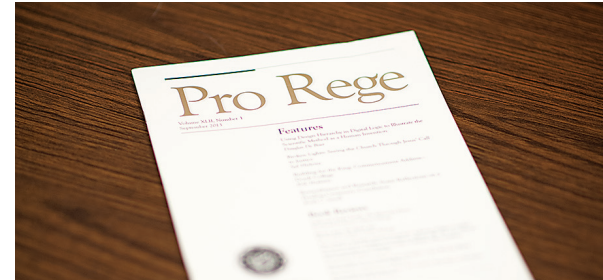
Dr. **John Kok** taught a course on Christian philosophy to leaders of the CRC and to a group of Evangelical University of the Americas (UNELA) Salvation Army students in Cuba.

LIBRARY HELPS *PRO REGE* GO DIGITAL

Pro Rege, Dordt's quarterly faculty publication, was first printed in 1972. The number of printed copies of each issue hasn't changed dramatically over the years, but in today's digital world, readers don't need a print copy. They can read it online from Dordt's site, and, more importantly, they can now search issues by author, title, date, or subject.

"It's been an internal labor of love," says Librarian Sheryl Taylor, who has coordinated the scanning of old issues and downloading of PDFs over the past couple of summers.

The digitization began in response to a database indexing project at Calvin College, a sister college in Grand Rapids, Michigan, that was created to help people access articles written from a Reformed perspective. The Christian Reformed Church Periodical Index (CRCPI) is an index to periodicals that are official publications of the Christian Reformed Church and periodicals that have a significant number of contributors who are affiliated with the CRC or its institutions. Because of Dordt's historic ties to the Christian Reformed Church, *Pro Rege* was included.



"*Pro Rege* was never indexed before, so finding an earlier article, even if you remembered something about it, took some searching," says Taylor. To make *Pro Rege* accessible through CRCPI, the Dordt library staff scanned early issues and downloaded more recent issues. Each new record had to incorporate standard indexing conventions so that people would be able to search by author, title, date, or subject. Much of the work was done by student employees.

Taylor is most excited about the opportunities the digital archive offers for international scholars and institutions looking for articles written from a Reformed perspective. She already knows of people in Korea, Costa Rica, and Indonesia who are making use of *Pro Rege* because of this indexing database.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



DEBATE RETURNS TO CAMPUS

Alumni from several decades ago may remember debate teams, but it's been a long time since Dordt students participated in a Debate Club, much less entered a competition.

A group of students resurrected the club this year, inviting a team from Bethel University in St. Paul to help them get started earlier in the semester. Dordt sent its first debate teams to the Jackrabbit Jousts Debate Tournament at South Dakota State University in October, competing with 19 other teams representing more than a dozen schools. In their first competition, the team consisting of juniors Adam Vander Stoep of Doon, Iowa, and Lee Ver Burg of Rock Valley, Iowa, made it to the quarterfinal round. Vander Stoep was ranked the 10th best individual debater.

Soundings

AN ALUMNI REFLECTION

Justice! Not 'just us'

What does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

What do you think of when you hear the word “justice”? Do thoughts of fairness and equality enter your mind? Or do you think of injustice—oppression, exploitation, benefiting at the expense of someone else? Maybe “justice” produces for you an image of courts or the legal system. Maybe it is a vision of human rights in their most broadly defined terms—



encompassing political and economic rights, but also basic respect and dignity for all humankind. While each of these descriptions for justice (or injustice) is correct, there is another description that can help guide us in our understanding of justice.

When I first started learning Spanish, I learned the word *justicia*. However, it appeared in many more places in my Spanish Bible than the word *justice* did in my English Bible. Could I have mislearned the word? It appeared frequently where I knew the word was supposed to be righteousness. Then it also popped up in all the passages I knew as justice passages. What was going on?

It turns out that in Spanish, *justicia* means both justice and righteousness. Many other languages use a single word for these English words as well, including the Hebrew of the Old Testament (*tzedek*). They actually refer to “right relationship.” Righteousness (*justicia/tzedek*) = right relationship with God; justice (*justicia/tzedek*) = right relationship with others. In each case, the word is bigger than righteousness or justice. It means both. I find it helpful every time I read the word justice, to

insert righteousness as well. And where I read righteousness, I insert justice. Notice how differently Matthew 6:25-34 reads with that addition.

When one of the Pharisees tried to test Jesus by asking, “Which is the greatest commandment?” Jesus supersized righteousness and justice into loving God and loving others. He said, “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matt. 22:36-40).

All of the law and all of the messages from the prophets are based on righteousness and justice (right relationship with God and others)?

Look at the Old Testament law books, and skim through some of the chapters (Exodus 20-30, Deuteronomy 4-26, Leviticus 1-7, 11-15, 25). These passages either offer guidelines for right worship and right relationship with God, or they regulate and guide relationships between people, including even public health and the prevention of the spread of diseases in Leviticus.

What was the task of the prophets? They had the difficult and often frustrating job of calling the people and their leaders back into right relationship, both with God and with others. Try studying the prophets, identifying in each passage which type of broken relationship the prophet is addressing at that moment. Notice also how intertwined those relationships are.

God speaks through Isaiah about true worship. “Day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does right. ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves and you have not noticed?’ Yet on the day of your fasting you do as

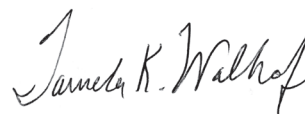
you please and exploit all your workers” (Isaiah 58).

The people are going through the right actions, but their relationship with God is not right because their relationship with others is lacking. Instead, they are told that loosing the chains of injustice, setting the oppressed free, sharing their food with the hungry, and providing shelter for the homeless will cause their “light to break forth like the dawn.” Then their righteousness [their right relationship with God] “will go before

Jesus supersized righteousness and justice into loving God and loving others.

them and the Glory of the Lord will be [their] rear guard” (Isaiah 58).

How are we doing in our relationships? Are we spending time in worship and prayer, yet neglecting the needs of others? Or, are we expending energy addressing the needs of others while neglecting our relationship with God? Are we focusing on righteousness and on justice? Or are we focusing on just us?



TAMMY WALHOF'S PASSION FOR JUSTICE HAS LED HER TO VOLUNTEER WITH LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN THE U.S., WORK WITH HER CHURCH'S RELIEF PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICA, AND TRAVEL THE WORLD TO UNDERSTAND HUNGER AND POVERTY. SHE HAS HELPED SHAPE PUBLIC POLICY THAT ADDRESSES THE CAUSES OF HUNGER AND POVERTY THROUGH GOVERNMENT, RELIEF, AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS.

CAMPUS HEALTH

Campus Health Services is the place students go when they're sick, but illness prevention takes as much of the staff's time as treatment.

Campus Health's top priority, according to Director Beth Baas, is maintaining health. In the on-campus clinic, Baas, a registered nurse, and Nurse Practitioner and Professor Kate Vander Veen record about 900 student visits each year. Many of those visits are for colds, allergies, stomach flu, or minor injuries. For more serious ailments, the staff refers students to the local medical clinic for treatment. Baas consults as needed with Dr. Jason Koelewyn ('99), a physician at the Sioux Center Medical Clinic, with whom Dordt contracts services.



Beth Baas

"The most important part of maintaining wellness is to stay on top of things and be proactive whenever possible," Baas says. A significant part of being proactive, she adds, is the college's immunization requirement. During the first semester, the staff makes sure that student immunization records are up to date, putting a hold on second semester

registrations if they aren't.

Campus Health staff members also carefully watch what is happening around them. College campuses are considered "congregate living" settings by the Center for Disease Control, and Baas is always looking for symptoms that might indicate something that has

"Students are emerging adults and their ideas about health and wellness are emerging too. What's important is to keep providing them with information that they can use when they're ready to hear it."

—Beth Baas, Campus Health Director



JAMIN VER VELDE ('99)

HEALTH FACTORS

The American College Health Association identifies the following areas that affect student wellness and ultimately, academic success.

Substance Abuse

Alcohol

Drugs (Prescription and Recreational)

Fitness

Nutrition

Sexual Health

Mental Health

Anxiety

Stress

Depression

Healthy Relationships

Sleep

the potential to spread quickly, whether it is influenza or the mumps that were on campus a few years ago. At that time Campus Health worked with the Iowa Department of Public Health to isolate those infected quickly to avoid spreading the disease as much as possible.

Baas and staff also help prepare students for the international travel required for many off-campus programs. They meet with each student to review specific medical needs, provide them with a list of recommended immunizations for the country in which they'll study, and educate them on how to avoid illnesses carried by food, water, or insects.

And Campus Health Services offers personal counseling for students who are facing emotional and relational distress, providing quality mental health care from a Christian perspective.

"Overall, college students are a healthy population, so many of them are not so concerned with health at this point in

their lives," she says. As with any group of people, individual students are more and less concerned about what they eat and how fit they are. It's not uncommon for personal taste and convenience to trump healthy choices during the college years.

"Students are emerging adults and their ideas about health and wellness are emerging too. What's important is to keep providing them with information that they can use when they're ready to hear it," she adds.

Baas appreciates the fact that Dordt's food service offers fresh choices and vegetarian dishes that give students healthy food options, and she notes that as students mature and especially as they move into apartments and begin cooking for themselves, they often begin to think more about how they eat.

Campus Health makes a variety of resources available that give students information about how to be well: nutrition information, fitness opportunities, counseling services, and more. This year, they're giving all students access to Student Health 101, an online magazine for college students. They also help coordinate events like this semester's Go for Fit program. And their counseling services are readily available by appointment.

"We see students as whole people, whether they come to us with stomach issues, homesickness, a cough, or depression," says Baas.

"Watching students mature in their health awareness as they mature in other ways is the most rewarding part of my work," says Baas. She and the staff consider each Dordt student's physical and emotional wellbeing their special concern.

SALLY JONGSMA

Faculty Bits

Digital montages from the "Iowa Insect Series" by **David Versluis** and Roy Behrens were selected for the Midwest Multiples Print Show, a seven-state juried exhibition in Park Rapids, Minnesota, in August. Several prints from the "Iowa Insect Series" also received special recognition in the 15th Annual Collage, Digital, and Mixed Media Juried Online International Art Exhibition at the Upstream People Gallery in Omaha, Nebraska, in June.

Versluis served as portfolio reviewer and critic for Design Habit 4, an annual week-long design workshop held at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion in June.

Dr. Tony Jelsma

and Senior Sam De Nooy presented "CUX1 in Sertoli cells Regulates Spermatogonia Proliferation and



Death in Adult Mouse Testes" at the 51st Annual Midwest Society for Developmental Biology meeting at Washington University this fall. The poster was based on student summer and senior research. Other student authors were Erica Lieuwen and Joseph Lammers.

Four poems by English Professor **Rose Postma** will appear in the spring 2014 edition of *Weber: The Contemporary West*, a literary journal affiliated with Weber State University in Ogden, Utah: "One morning before winter," "Disenchanted," "Dissection," and "Gravity." Four poems were also published in the Spring 2013 *Mayo Review*: "Because People are Starting to Ask Why I Don't Have Any Poems About my Husband," "Glottophagy," "Translating for Toddlers," and "Finishing up a Nine Hour Car Trip at Ten Weeks Pregnant." "In the Delivery Room After Hours of Hard Labor" was published in the Fall/Winter 2012-2013 *Valparaiso Poetry Review*.

Director of Library Services **Sheryl Taylor** traveled to Costa Rica to serve as a library consultant to the Evangelical University of the Americas (UNELA).

Faculty Bits

Education Professor **Kathleen VanTol** spent two weeks in May in Nicaragua, visiting schools, consulting on student concerns, and leading workshops on how to include students with special needs into the classroom. She also worked with churches to help them include members with special needs.



Van Tol was recently appointed to Iowa's Special Education Advisory Panel. The federally mandated panel provides policy and procedural guidance on special education and services for children with disabilities in the state.

Three of 10 papers presented at the Christian Engineering Conference held in June at Georgia Tech in Atlanta were given by Dordt engineering faculty: "Toward a Meaning-Filled Introduction to Holistic Engineering" by Dr. **Kevin Timmer**; "Working Toward a Distinctively Christian Engineering Curriculum" by Professors **Ethan Brue**, **Joel Sikkema**, and **Justin Vander Werff**; and "Using Design Hierarchy in Digital Logic to Illustrate the Scientific Method as a Human Invention" by Dr. **Douglas F. De Boer**. <http://bit.ly/1f8oH3L>.

Engineering Professor **Justin Vander Werff** co-authored a paper, "Two Alternative Connections for Integral Precast Concrete Girder Bridges in Seismic Regions" by Sri Sritharan (Iowa State), Ron Bromenschenkel (California Department of Transportation), Vander Werff, and Robert Peggar (Iowa State), that was presented at the 7th National Seismic Conference. Vander Werff also received a scholarship from the Post-Tensioning Institute for his work using post-tensioning technology in bridge connections for seismic regions.



DANIEL WOLDENBERG (16)

Prior to the volleyball game on October 9, team members invited local women battling breast cancer to share a meal with them. During the game, the team wore pink ribbons to honor those women, and fans were encouraged to wear pink as a show of support.

VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS RAISE AWARENESS

Northwest Iowa has some of the highest average rates of breast cancer in Iowa. In 2011, the national incidence of breast cancer was 118.7 cases per 100,000 women; the state of Iowa had 120.1 cases. But in northwest Iowa the rates were 122 in Sioux County, 145.7 in Plymouth County, and 147.7 in Lyon County.

When Volleyball Coach Chad Hanson and the women of the Defender volleyball team became aware of these statistics, they began a partnership with Promise Community Health Center in Sioux Center to raise awareness and encourage women with cancer. From there, *Sister to Sister* emerged.

The team began by using the October 9 volleyball game as a way to raise awareness in the community. *Sister to Sister* was an event dedicated to providing information about breast cancer and about reducing the risks, while cheering on the Defender volleyball team. It was also an opportunity to honor women of the community who have had or are battling breast cancer.

"Talking about breast cancer at a well-attended event like a Dordt volleyball game reduces the idea that the disease

is a far-off issue and that only 'other people' should think about it," said Brittany Hamm, a nurse with Promise.

Hamm worked with the volleyball players and student artists to plan the *Sister to Sister* event.

"I was so impressed with their commitment to raise awareness in others about the significance of the issue and their creativity in communicating the necessary information," she said.

The volleyball team had been looking for ways to serve the community, Hanson said. So bringing breast cancer awareness to a game was something that they were excited to do.

The players also spent time praying for specific women in the community who are fighting cancer. "Pairing up our student-athletes with women working through a disease like breast cancer has been life-forming for them," he said.

"This event was a great start to the potential impact that our volleyball program can have in supporting women through the expenses of a mammogram or the routines of a fitness program."

SARAH VANDER PLAATS '05)

GO FOR FIT

Go for Fit signs were all over campus before the semester's kick-off wellness event on September 14. Sidewalks were covered with brightly colored chalk invitations to join fellow students for an evening of fun and exercise.

Go for Fit was the first in a series of initiatives sponsored by Campus Health Services and student services staff. It turned out to be a great evening of fun for the more than 200 students who came to line dance, participate in a glow run, or play dodgeball. And the weather was perfect.

"Campus health programs on most campuses reach about 30 percent of students," says Dordt's Campus Health Director Beth Baas. "That leaves 70 percent to try to reach in another way."

To address that 70 percent, Campus Health Services and Student Services set up SWAT—a student wellness activities



Sita Riblet

team made up of staff and students—to promote wellness on campus.

Baas, from Campus Health, Sita Riblet from Student Services, and Erin Olson from social work were joined by students from majors related to health and wellness.



Erin Olson

"The tie between physical and mental health is big," Olson says. "As social workers we're concerned about the whole person; good nutrition, fitness, sleep, and so much more are needed for optimal health."

Drawing on the American College Health Association's Healthy Campus 2020 project, the team began to explore what they could do on Dordt's campus.

Last summer, students received a survey about their health interests. Within a few days, 450 surveys were returned, giving the team some specific suggestions to work with. They identified 10 areas to address, deciding to focus on physical fitness first. Next semester, they plan to focus on mental health.

"We'd love to see all students participate in a moderate activity for 30 minutes 5 times a week or vigorous activity for 20 minutes, three times a week," says Baas.

As with the general population, that goal may hard to achieve. But the effort will be worthwhile if students begin developing good fitness habits.

SALLY JONGSMA

EVENT OPTIONS

In addition to the evening kick-off event, Go for Fit offers students other fitness options:

- Free twice-a-week Zumba classes led by a certified student instructor
- Tuesday night Games on the Green, a 20- to 30-minute study break with activities such as clock tower musical chairs, calisthenics, duck-duck-goose, and a jump rope, scooter, and hula hoop contest
- The library's DVD exercise collection, moved temporarily to the Rec Center
- Student-led demonstrations about how to use fitness equipment in the Rec Center
- Accountability groups for those who want to regularly walk, run, swim, or bike
- Individual programs set up by fitness assessment class members

Library staff recently brought in a treadmill that allows students to walk as they read.



JAMIN VERVELDE (99)

Faculty Bits

Communication Professors **Charles Veenstra** and **Kae Van Engen** gave presentations at the International Listening Association in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, this summer. Van Engen presented "Listening Within Leadership"; Veenstra looked at "Social Media's Impact on Listening and Loneliness." Van Engen was elected secretary of the association.

Dordt's Center for Educational Services led the Pella Area Vermeer Social Studies Workshop in June.

Walker Cosgrove, **Paul Fessler**, and **Scott Culpepper** from history; **Art Attema** and **Erica Vonk** from business and the Dordt College Center for Economic Education; and **Gwen Marra**, **David Mulder**, and **Ed Starkenburg** from education led professional development sessions for Christian school teachers in the Pella area.

Dr. **Jeff Taylor**'s new book, *Politics on a Human Scale: The American Tradition of Decentralism*, was recently released by Lexington Books. It looks at the relationship between political thought and American political history, focusing on power, democracy, liberty, community, morality, and the Christian concepts of subsidiarity and sphere sovereignty.



Dr. **Robbin Eppinga** and four of his students presented a poster titled "Using the Yeast Two Hybrid System to learn molecular biology" in Iowa City in August. The work was funded, in part, by funds Eppinga received from a "Better Futures For Iowans" grant.

Communication Professor **Mark Volkers** was a distinguished alumnus at Kuyper College this fall. As part of their 75th Anniversary celebration, he spent time in classrooms on October 3. That evening, Volkers *The Fourth World* film was shown to more than 250 people from West Michigan.

Dr. **Carl Fictorie** was one of 300 chemistry faculty participating in the Advanced Placement Reading for Chemistry in Louisville, Kentucky.

CLASSES INCORPORATE NEW TECHNOLOGIES

As dean for curriculum and instruction, Dr. Leah Zuidema gets to help faculty find creative ways to spend a multi-year donor gift designated for promoting innovative teaching and learning.

For the past couple of years, Zuidema has put out a call for proposals that resulted in the creation of the Teacher Resource Center classroom (TRC), a hi-tech classroom and resource room designed for group interaction and learning; last year's interdisciplinary Water Project and this year's follow-up AGILE Project, which is helping students learn about and respond to child mortality; and a variety of other projects that have allowed professors in several disciplines to act on ideas for improving their teaching.

Last summer, Computer Science Professor Kari Sandouka taught professors how to build Android apps they could use in their classes or that might be useful to the Dordt community.

The Dordt College Map Tour, developed by Dordt College Computer Support Specialist Sandy Reitsma, provides an interactive map of the campus. The app allows users to browse through the buildings on campus, view buildings on Google Maps, and get directions to and from locations on campus.

The Iowa Prairie Locator, developed by Environmental Studies Professor Jeff Ploegstra, identifies the locations of all prairies found in Iowa. Users can find specific prairie locations and receive driving directions.

Connections Photo Directory, developed by Mathematics Professor Gary De Young, works in conjunction with a subscription to the Connections Online Photo Directory found at www.online-photo-directory.com. It allows users to look up listings in their directory and then map an address, call, or email an individual.



JEFF PLOEGSTRA (99)



Students in Dr. Jeff Ploegstra's Local Flora class wrote 4,903 lines (five meters) of code to create an app that helps people identify plants. The app currently includes 50 species, providing photos and identifying information. The goal is to double that number.

Dr. Jeff Ploegstra, one of the workshop participants, is having students in his Local Flora Biology course develop an app that matches medications with their plant origins. He believes that almost any industry will benefit from students who know how to use technology and can program it for their use.

Although Ploegstra had a specific outcome in mind for his class project, his goal was more interdisciplinary: helping students gain knowledge they could use in any discipline. Ploegstra sees the opportunities provided by the innovation grant as a way for Dordt professors to equip themselves so they, in turn, can be resources for the broader Dordt community.

Innovative teaching with technology is happening in others areas, too. Several

Music Professor John MacInnis, who helped write the app proposal and who attended the session, is amazed at the number of people that are benefitting from the workshop. Professors in multiple disciplines are sharing their apps and the app building process with their students. Some professors and students also intend to share what they've learned with local high school students.

professors are using screen casting—a way to communicate specific concepts in a narrated video, usually on a tablet. This technology makes information more accessible, helps students review information more easily, and provides a medium for learning that today's students find more familiar and engaging than reading a textbook.

Engineering Professor Kayt Frisch posts example problems online for students to use when working through longer problems at their own pace. Ploegstra uses screen casting tutorials for labs.

Chemistry Professor Darren Stoub finds that his students learn concepts best when they teach what they know to others. His students use screen casting to explain a problem set question using either a video or an iPad app in the TRC classroom. Stoub hopes that incorporating technology into his classes will help students use what they are learning more effectively.

Stoub has been sharing his experiences with middle and high school science teachers through an interactive outreach program. College professors and local teachers meet periodically to discuss topics relevant to their classrooms, including the use of technology.

Agriculture Professor Chris Goedhart is using Galaxy Tab 2 tablets in his classes after the agriculture and environmental studies departments together applied for funds to purchase six tablets. Each professor in these departments has a tablet for personal use, but they make them available to each other for use in classes. Part of the goal is to use technologies students are familiar with so that they become more “visionary and discriminating” users of technology.

The agriculture and environmental studies departments are using grant money to become more acquainted with new apps available in their fields. They



Geographic information systems allow students—and farmers—to keep track of individual plant development. The split screen on this tablet showed exactly where the ear of corn on the right comes from.

have students evaluate what free or low cost apps offer as compared with other sources of information. Students and professors are learning together this semester as they explore what technology can offer for their work.

One major focus of these departments is on geographic information systems (GIS). GIS allows them to display spatially referenced data and pictures to make crop management decisions. At Dordt's Agriculture Stewardship Center, students tag pictures to specific locations in fields to note how certain plants are developing, and students in Goedhart's Field Crop Production and Management course are looking for programs best suited to evaluate multiple years of the information they gather.

The funding for all of these programs was made available out of a desire to promote excellent Christian education, Zuidema says, noting that Dordt's administrators hope that through such efforts “light will shine brightly so that others can see it and be excited about what is happening here.”

“Good news is spread through making good things happen,” she says.

ELIZABETH RILEY (15)

Faculty Bits

During the past year, **Matt Drissell's** artwork has been included in eight exhibitions: “Shelf Life” at Dordt in early 2013; The Briar Cliff Review Exhibition at the Sioux City Art Center; “Cell Mates” at Seton Hall University; New York Academy of Art Seventh Annual Summer Exhibition at Allegra LaViola Gallery in New York City; the 26th Annual Northern National Art Competition at the Nicolet College Art Gallery; “Fertile Imagination: Art and Agriculture” at the Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center in Auburn, New York; The Fletcher Exhibit at East Tennessee State University, and a print show at SUNY—Geneseo's Lockhart Gallery in Geneseo, New York. Drissell also presented the paper “Shalom Now! Justice and Contemporary Art” at the CIVA (Christians in the Visual Arts) conference at Wheaton College in June.



Business Professor **Randy Smit** received CMA (Certified Management Accountant) certification this past summer after completing a three-part exam and the professional experience needed to obtain it.

Dr. **Leah Zuidema** was appointed to a four-member editorial team for the new blog “Teachers, Profs, Parents: Writers Who Care” (<http://writerswhocare.wordpress.com>). The blog is sponsored by the Conference on English Education's Commission on Writing Teacher Education, and it advocates for authentic writing instruction in P-12 schools.

Engineering Professor **Joel Sikkema** defended his doctoral dissertation at Iowa State University this fall. Sikkema's dissertation, “Photocatalytic degradation of NOX by concrete pavement containing TiO₂,” explored whether adding a compound to concrete pavement can reduce air pollution near highways and major roads. The research has implications for nearly 15 percent of U.S. citizens who live within 300 feet of high use roads.

SHIM TAKES HIS WORK TO KOREA

Somewhat surprisingly, even to himself, Theology Professor Jay Shim's teaching has broadened far beyond his Dordt classroom.

For the second summer in a row, Shim and several of Dordt's Korean students have been teaching fifth and sixth grade students in Korea about how their faith relates to every part of their lives. He has also been consulting with Christian schools and educators in Korea.

"Many Koreans are very committed Christians," says Shim, "but their faith is very spiritual, a private relationship with God."

Shim and his students are helping Korean children see that a bigger faith and a comprehensive Christian worldview can

make a difference in their lives.

"Korean society is very competitive, even for children," Shim says. He explains that for most Koreans, the pathway to a happy life is getting into a prestigious school, which, in turn, paves the way to success in life.

"But many children know they will never get into such a school and so spend much of their life suffering from a lack of self-esteem." Shim tries to help them see that salvation means much more than what happens after they die and that the world is not simply an evil place they're passing through. He introduces them to a



PHOTO SUBMITTED



The summer camp that Dr. Jay Shim and several Dordt students led could be compared to Vacation Bible School in the United States. "Ours involved lots of story telling and lots of fun," says Shim. The big banner was hung in the church in advance as a way to encourage children to come.

Creator God who reconciles and restores all things to himself and calls them to participate in that work.

Proclaiming Christian Education, the short book Shim penned to teach these concepts to young children, is opening up a world of hope for these children, Shim believes. They begin to feel that they have value and that they have important work to do in a world that God loves.

The opportunity to work with Korean children began five years ago when Dr. Shim gave a presentation on Christian worldview and education to university professors in Korea for IAPCHE, the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education.

Christian education has not been widely emphasized or developed because of the tendency to privatize faith in Korea. Global connections and organizations like IAPCHE have helped spark interest by some educators to understand what Christian education would look like and what difference it could make.

Shim's contact, following his IAPCHE presentations, was an education professor at Ewha Women's University and principal at Ewha Elementary School, Dr. Kim. Ewha Women's University was originally established by American missionaries but today is a prestigious, nominally Christian institution with an education faculty as large as Dordt's entire faculty. Ewha Elementary School was established by the university and employs six Dordt College graduates, some American and some Korean.

Intrigued by Shim's presentation, Kim asked him to write something that would help her and her students understand what salvation means for the way students think and live. Shim recently revised the original article he wrote for her into the *Proclaiming Christian Education* book and also wrote a teacher's guide to accompany it. It is now being used at Ewha, and also at a second school, Sammul.

Although born in Korea, Shim was

educated in the United States.

"My Korean is not smooth, and I realized I needed help to make it understandable for Korean children," he says. So he began training willing Korean students attending Dordt to help him with the book and to teach young students in Korea.

"I don't want to just teach theology in an abstract way. I want to explain what God is doing in real life. I want students to see how Christian thinking and knowledge have concrete implications."

—Jay Shim

Those sessions became valuable mentoring sessions. As they worked through the material, it became clear to Shim that many of the college students also did not understand the breadth of a Reformed faith.

"In the process of this training many had a spiritual renewal themselves," says Shim. They came to better understand what they were learning in the Biblical Foundations class at Dordt and began to see that salvation doesn't just have to do

CHECKING IT OUT

After interacting with Dr. Jay Shim in Korea, several Korean educators wanted to know what material teachers use in their teaching, who trains teachers to teach from out of a Christian framework, and how to teach such subjects as mathematics, biology, physical education from a Christian point of view.

Last January six elementary school teachers and eight students from Korea visited Sioux Center to see what Reformed Christian education might look like. They stayed with families who are part of the Christian school community, visiting local Christian schools and meeting with Dordt education faculty. A second group of teachers and students plan to visit again this coming January.

with later, but with their lives today.

"Some, who were here as exchange students for one year, have decided to stay for a four-year degree."

As others in Korea heard about the curriculum being used in the two schools, one church asked Shim to lead a three-day camp for children of the church. In the summer of 2012, Shim and several Dordt students led a camp called "My Story in God's Story" for 110 elementary students, using the *Proclaiming Christian Education* text. This past summer they led a camp at another church for 75 students. And they have been invited to lead a third next summer.

Shim's book uses the "Creation, Fall, Redemption" theme, and draws heavily on Dordt's educational statements to give a framework for talking about living as Christians in today's world. He tries to stress "why" questions: Why do you study? Why do you want to be an engineer? What is the point of happiness? Such questions help them think more concretely about "living for the glory of God"; it helps them understand how and

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Over the past two summers, more than 200 elementary students in Korea have gained a better understanding of how their faith can make a concrete difference in what they believe and how they live.

why what they learn is important for their lives as Christians; it helps them see that they're saved—reconciled and restored—to make a difference in a world over which God is sovereign.

Shim's work with Korean students has had an impact on what he does at Dordt.

"I don't want to just teach theology in an abstract way," he says. "I want to explain what God is doing in real life. I want students to see how Christian thinking and knowledge have concrete implications."

SALLY JONGSMA



DORDT COLLEGE

Dordt College is seeking applications for the following faculty positions:

Art

English

Theology

Education

Psychology

Dean for Research & Scholarship

Engineering

Statistics/Mathematics

Director of the Andreas Center

Dordt College seeks to provide a holistic Christ-centered learning experience for our students, in which a kingdom perspective is infused throughout the curriculum—a curriculum designed to help students develop Christian insight to discern and challenge the worldviews of our age in light of God's Word and a reformational perspective.

For more information on these positions, please visit the Dordt College website at www.dordt.edu/prospective_employees.

Dr. Eric Forseth, Provost
Dordt College
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Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697
Fax: (712) 722-6035
Email: provost@dordt.edu

Dordt College does not discriminate as to age, sex, national origin, marital status or against those who are disabled.



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Summer is the perfect time for internships. Students are looking for a change of pace, and companies and organizations gear up to provide opportunities that will benefit them and their interns.

This summer, dozens of Dordt students interned for companies, churches, and organizations around the country and the world. They worked with organizations like YouthWorks in Kansas City, Missouri; Cargill in Manitoba; Maguire Iron in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; South Valley Community Church in Lemoore, California; and many more.

Students learn about internship opportunities from professors, parents, Dordt's Career Center, or the Internet. Sometimes it takes concentrated and persistent digging to find an opportunity that fits their gifts and interests. Sometimes an internship almost seems to "fall into their laps." The Alumni Office tries to make the process smoother by pointing them to alumni willing and eager to house them and provide a home away from home.

The real-world experience that students gain from internships is invaluable and often leads to full-time employment.

"The value of internships is that students not only gain valuable work experience, but they experience the complex culture of a company or organization, which often stretches them beyond their discipline but not always in ways they expect," says Ethan Brue, professor of engineering at Dordt College. "They often learn how much more there is to learn. They also learn that it is no simple task to seek to serve as a Christ-follower in the world."

SARAH (GRONECK, '10) MOSS
CAREER CENTER COORDINATOR (SARAH.MOSS@DORDT.EDU)

THE INTERNS >

GIOVANNA ROMERO SARUBBI

Media intern, HCJB Global

"Would I be willing to spend a summer interning in New Zealand?" Giovanna "Giovi" Romero Sarubbi asked herself when the opportunity arose to intern with HCJB Global. HCJB Global is an organization that integrates media and healthcare ministries. Vero Visser, a Dordt alumna, had interned for the organization at the London 2012 Olympics and suggested that Romero Sarubbi might be interested.

"I did some research and prayed about it, and the next thing I know, I was going to New Zealand," said Romero Sarubbi.

In Auckland, New Zealand, she participated in "First Fruits," a program, according to an article that Romero Sarubbi wrote for the organization, to

"encourage the production of quality, cutting-edge programs with a gospel message that appeal to an unchurched audience."

She and three other media interns spent much of their time live streaming and filming.

During the eight-week internship, Romero Sarubbi and her team members produced three videos that were posted online. They also worked on an online radio station. Sometimes the tasks were daunting, especially as Romero Sarubbi was new to video production.

"This was my first time filming and editing videos," she said. "Sometimes, it was challenging, but I worked with awesome interns and learned a lot from them."



A communication major from Paraguay, Romero Sarubbi liked learning how media can be used to do missions.

"I ended up doing work related more to digital media than communications," said Romero Sarubbi. "I feel that God ignited in me a new passion for video production and doing missions with media. So I am excited to see where he is going to take me with that."

Romero Sarubbi also enjoyed seeing the gorgeous landscape of New Zealand.

"The landscape is so beautiful," she said. "I love the mountains, going hiking, and going to the beach. It reminded me every second of God's sovereignty and power over his creation."

"I would recommend a summer internship to anyone, and if they feel God is calling them there, go for it and do it," she said.





DUSTIN DOUMA

Business intern, Helena Brewers

Dustin Douma, a junior sports management major of Sioux Center, interned with the Helena Brewers, a minor league baseball team in Helena, Montana. Morgan Halpert ('11), a former Dordt baseball player who works for the Brewers, was looking for a possible Dordt student for the internship.

"Before the season started, most of my work consisted of sales, including a lot of cold calling," said Douma. "I was calling about group outings, picnics, and possible season ticket holders."

Cold calling was, according to Douma, a struggle.

"At first it was uncomfortable, and I was not very good at it," said Douma. But, with practice, he got better.

"A lot more goes into cold calling than most people understand. You have to have a plan and a way to meet the customer's wants and needs."

Once game days arrived, Douma's job changed. He'd start



at 9 a.m. and not leave the ball park until 11 p.m. Each game day was like opening day; "It was all about the fans' experience," said Douma.

He was responsible for getting the merchandise shop ready, setting up the ATM machine, raising the flags, getting the programs ready, and delivering items to the clubhouse. He was also in charge of the "Brewers for a Day" program, which gave one fan the opportunity to sit in the Brewer dugout during the game.

Creativity, according to Douma, "is vital in minor league baseball. It's all about getting the fans inside the gates and giving them the best experience possible. Promotions like "Hillbilly Horseshoes," where contestants threw toilet seats around a plunger handle to win prizes, were big hits with the crowd.

Douma said he learned "a lot about how minor league baseball teams operate and all the things that go on behind the scenes that fans do not see."



HAYLEY DAHL

Graphic design intern, DKY Integrated Marketing

Dahl spent her summer working for DKY, a small advertising company in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"My major is graphic design, so my dad thought it would be a good idea for me to get firsthand experience," she said. "How could I say no to that?"

"I worked on the production side of the business at DKY," she said, "putting details together or making changes to brochures, short videos, images, business cards, websites, and countless other advertising materials." She worked on marketing materials for companies like Winnebago and Toro.

It took some time for Dahl to become fully proficient in programs like Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop, but, as she worked on more projects, she learned more functions and became more confident.

"Each new assignment honed my abilities as a graphic designer," she said.

She appreciated her welcoming and helpful co-workers at DKY.

"The cool thing about a small business is that it feels more like a family," she said. "Each employee was eager to help me learn."



DKY

CALVIN LEADER

Lab intern, Johns Hopkins

Calvin Leader interned as a software developer for Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Maryland.

"My main job was making data visualizations to show basic users who don't know a lot about networks or other computer concepts what is going on in their network."

The Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins does a wide variety of other research projects, but Leader and two other interns were assigned to a group of 23 full-time employees who program such data visualizations.

"I liked the atmosphere at Johns Hopkins," said Leader, a senior. "They really want to help people out."

And, as he said, he "learned a lot about computer science and programming languages."

"Before this, I was never in a setting where I was with a bunch of programmers working on developing software together," said the computer science major from Crofton, Nebraska. In the classroom, students are often working on their own projects. "Here, it was a collaborative effort."

What surprised Leader was how much fun the people he worked with had at work. They planned themed events such as a day where employees dressed up as superheroes.

"On that day, we all went outside for an ice cream social, and then two of my co-workers and I were in a three-legged race. And we won!" said Leader. "We got Dunkin' Donuts coffee the following week."

The main struggles Leader encountered in his internship were "the typical things that go along with computer programming."

"There are always problems when you're writing code," said Leader. "You run into a problem, and you say, 'OK, how am I going to fix this?' The employees at Johns Hopkins are so helpful that they'll help you with a problem without just writing the code for you."

Leader's internship came through Dordt alumnus Ken Verbrugge ('69), a project leader in the APL lab. At the end of the summer, Leader's supervisor told Verbrugge, "Thanks for finding Calvin for me. I could use more of this type of person. Whatever Calvin was assigned to do, he accomplished quickly with limited supervision. Calvin was capable of learning what he needed if he did not already know it."



JONATHAN DE GRAAF

Engineering intern, Iowa Department Of Transportation

Jonathan De Graaf, a junior engineering major from Marshall, Minnesota, learned about asphalt this summer. Interning for the Iowa Department of Transportation, he took samples of asphalt, helped pour asphalt, and found that he liked working with asphalt.



De Graaf's crew spent several weeks doing full-depth patching, removing old asphalt and filling back in with new. They also did cold-in-place recycling, where the current road surface is crushed, mixed with asphalt, and then reused on the same road.

"A large part of my job was to read the plans and make sure that what the engineer had designed was actually happening on the road," he said. For example, he had to make sure that the cold-in-place recycling stopped before a bridge if the engineer had so indicated.

De Graaf was given a 1,600-page book of rules to follow and admits that confronting workers about rules wasn't something he particularly enjoyed.

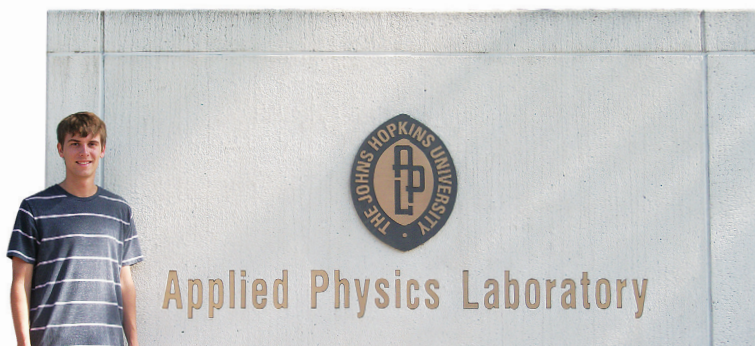
"There were strict rules that some felt they didn't have to follow. For example, you're supposed to wear a safety vest when you're outside," he said. "Some would say, 'But I'm on the paver. Do I still have to wear one?' It's the law, so they have to."



Iowa Department of Transportation

The scariest part about the internship, according to De Graaf, was the drivers on the road. They're often watching the construction rather than the road and don't notice that the car ahead may have slowed down or that a worker is in their lane. They sometimes drift into the construction zone, and workers aren't always able to pay full attention to traffic. Drivers on cell phones are especially dangerous, he says.

Despite the dangers, De Graaf hopes to work in the field once he graduates.



MICHAEL JANSEN

Intern, Center for Public Justice

Dordt Senior Michael Jansen was familiar with the Center for Public Justice (CPJ) in Washington, D.C.; his mother, Gail Jansen ('74), had been on the organization's board several times. But, it wasn't until Michael Gerson, a *Washington Post* writer and CPJ supporter, came to Dordt's campus for the First Mondays Speaker Series in April that Jansen decided to apply for an internship there.

Jansen spent much of his time drafting a history of the organization.

"I did online research and talked to former and current patrons to gauge what themes should be highlighted," he said. He also made recommendations about what to include on CPJ's website, which is currently being redesigned.

Jansen and four other interns also met once a week to talk about assigned books and to discuss justice issues and current events."

"They had us read books such as *Church, State, and Public Justice*, which gives five Christian perspectives on the church and the state and how they should or shouldn't be intertwined. The five of us represented five perspectives," he said. The discussions led to lively and sometimes heated conversation, and became one of his favorite parts of the experience.

"Being exposed to different perspectives, being challenged politically and religiously was good," said Jansen. "I don't think you learn things by being surrounded by people

who agree with you. Despite our differences, we go along well."

Jansen attended events at organizations such as the Brookings Institute, met regularly and talked with CPJ CEO Stephanie Sommers, and wrote an article titled "Citizens, Saints, and Patriots" for SharedJustice.org, an online CPJ journal.

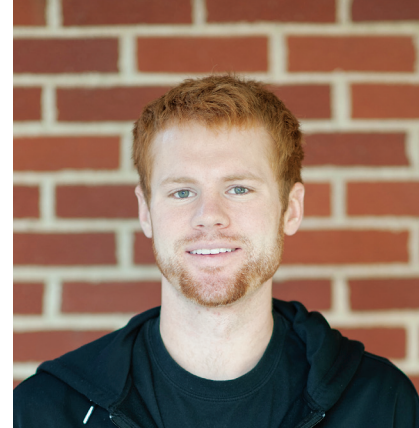
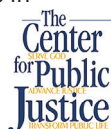
"The family I lived with had kids under 10 and were a blessing to me," said Jansen. "They invited me to go on a 4th of July boat ride on the Potomac River and watch fireworks from Capitol Hill, which was really cool."

Jansen's CPJ internship helped sharpen and challenge his beliefs. He appreciated CPJ's perspective that Christians need to pay attention to politics.

"For CPJ, government isn't just a result of the fall, and it's not the enemy," said Jansen. "They focus on how you can get involved in politics and use your Christian worldview in that sphere of life. It's not about withdrawing from the public sphere but engaging in it and working out of a Christian worldview."

Jansen hopes to pursue graduate work in international relations or intelligence, and politics will definitely remain a mainstay in his life.

"Washington is more polarized than it's ever been, and I think people are too," said Jansen. "That can be frustrating, when little gets done. I see a need for divisions to be reconciled. I don't know what that looks like going forward, but I'd like to be part of it."



AUSTIN KATJE

Accounting intern, iBusiness Solutions

Austin Katje, an accounting major from Orange City, Iowa, had never lived outside of Sioux County before this summer, so he jumped at the opportunity to move to the Twin Cities to intern at iBusiness Solutions, an information technology organization founded by Dordt Alumnus Tim Brands ('90).



"I did accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and quite a bit of tax stuff every week, as well as monthly and quarterly entries," said Katje.

In a small business like iSolutions, there wasn't always eight hours of accounting work to do every day. Katje also worked with marketing, helping move to a new logo and adding new fonts to the company's documents and letterheads. One week, when his supervisor was gone, he "was" the accounting department.

Katje lived with Dordt alumni during his internship this summer. "I was incredibly blessed to have met the Groenewegs," he said. "They treated me like I was their son."

"It was my first real professional job," Katje said. "I learned that communication and being able to ask questions are really important." He found that his supervisor and co-workers were valuable resources and were eager to help him.

"I'm definitely grateful for the experience I had," he said.



One Generation

CALLS TO THE NEXT

While my grandfather never went to college, he loved Dordt. His wife (class of '59) went to Dordt, and so did all six of his children, along with four sons-in-law. At every family gathering, he would make sure to put in multiple plugs for the college to his 15 grandchildren, and he watched proudly as seven of us (so far) complied. He never missed a chance to ask us, while we were still in elementary school, whether we were going to Dordt, and he loved to remind us what a great school it is. He had limited knowledge of any other school, and very

little with which to compare Dordt, but as far as he could tell, there was no need to look any farther. Dordt College was the place to go.

My cousins and I would joke about what horrible thing might happen were we to decide against Dordt College, but most of us also swore we'd never attend the "family school." And yet, for most of us, the seemingly inevitable happened, and we came to Dordt College.

Despite our grumbling, despite our desire to rebel against the family status

quo, despite wondering if Grandpa would ever stop asking us about Dordt, we're glad we came. We're glad we've been able to experience the same excellent education, the same beautiful community, the same faithful God that our cousins, aunts, uncles, parents, and grandmother experienced at Dordt. And we're glad we've been able to have these experiences that Grandpa, despite never having come to college, knew we would find and come to appreciate here.

ANNA VISSER ('14)

Senior Anna Visser, from Ingersoll, Ontario, welcomed to campus her alumni parents Norman ('85) and Marcia (Groenendyk, '87) Visser and grandmother Eleanor Groenendyk ('59) during Defender Days. Her grandfather passed away this summer.

“In my travels talking with alumni, the word “community” is what people remember and value about Dordt College. It helps account for the high percentage, year after year, of children of alumni that return to study at Dordt College.”

—President Erik Hoekstra

Freshman Kylie Van Roekel grew up knowing about Dordt College. Her family visited campus often, holding Christmas parties in the bowling alley in the Campus Center, enjoying the indoor waterslides at the All Seasons Center and playing basketball in the Rec Center. Three of her grandparents attended Dordt, and her parents told stories about how they met and fell in love at Dordt. From a young age, Van Roekel decided that she, too, would attend the school.

When it came time for her to actually decide on a college, she said, the decision wasn't so easy. Her parents talked about their good experiences at Dordt and told her about the importance and benefits of being part of a Christian community, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to break tradition or follow in their footsteps.

In the end, Van Roekel decided to attend Dordt, and she's come to appreciate her parents' loyalty to Dordt. She has enjoyed getting to know children of her parents' college friends, and she has enjoyed the Christian community on campus.

“The ever-present smile or hello of one passing student to another is a staple on campus that extends through the generations at Dordt,” said Van Roekel.

Van Roekel's story is shared by many “legacy” students at Dordt College, but many would also echo Senior Sarah Kaemingk, who said, “It isn't only that my parents went here and encouraged me to do the same, it's that Dordt College is an amazing and excellent college and just happens to be the place my parents attended as well.”

This fall, 35 percent of incoming freshmen are children of alumni, a

GIOVANNA ROMERO SARUBBI (14)



Devin, Brennan, and Cailee Veenstra (left) from Pella, Iowa, are one of only a few three-sibling groups on campus. Their alumni parents, Kevin ('89) and Carrie (Smits, '90), along with brothers Jeron and Kendon, came to campus this fall for a family visit and to participate in Defender Days festivities.

number that has stayed fairly steady for the past 10 years, according to Dordt's admissions office.

Vice President for College Advancement John Baas said that while Dordt's numbers are not the highest among similar colleges, they are steadily in the top percentile.

“We are happy about that,” Baas said.

Institutional data from many public universities, including Ivy League schools, show legacy populations of less than 15 percent.

“Dordt College has amazing alumni

loyalty. It is unique to see such a high attendance of alumni kids. National averages would be much lower,” said Provost Eric Forseth.

Freshman Cailee Veenstra is at Dordt with two brothers, senior Devin and sophomore Brennan. They also have three cousins on campus; their parents and grandmother went to Dordt, as did several other cousins, aunts, and uncles.

Cailee Veenstra believes that these sorts of family connections make Dordt unique.

“The fact that some of our parents went to college together gives us just one more thing to talk about,” Veenstra said.

President Erik Hoekstra agreed that these interactions help make Dordt College so memorable.

"In my travels talking with alumni, the word 'community' is what people remember and value about Dordt College," Hoekstra said. "It helps account for the high percentage, year after year, of children of alumni that return to study at Dordt College."

For Alexa Vos, the Dordt community was a large part to her decision to attend Dordt. All four of her grandparents went to Dordt, and so did her parents and many of her aunts and uncles. Her great grandmother was even one of the original cooks in the Commons.

"I was the baby with all of the Dordt gear," Vos said. "I never even considered attending another school."



California Senior Alexa Vos (left in white) is the only Dordt student with both parents and all grandparents who are alumni. All but three of the extended Vos family who are old enough to attend college are also alumni. Alexa's parents are Kent ('87) and Annserita (Lyon, '87) Vos.



Kylie Van Roekel's parents, Galen ('93) and Kimberly (Van Zyl, '91) Van Roekel, came from Indiana to watch her play volleyball and be part of Defender Days.

Vos loves her family's history with Dordt and says that their experiences in the Dordt community are reflected in her family, which is very close.

"That feeling of community gets under your skin. I can see it in the lives of my family members," Vos said.

Freshman Mark Geertsma had a similar experience. His parents and sisters all attended Dordt, and, as the youngest in the family, it was the only school he knew about because they all talked about their experiences and memories at Dordt.

"I explores several options," Geertsma said of his decision to attend Dordt. "But Dordt always resonated in my mind. The other colleges I looked at just didn't seem like a great fit."

Those working in admissions and advancement at Dordt say that these positive experiences of community are very important to the college.

"It means people are happy with the

OUR COMMUNITY

While strong alumni loyalty is important and the current percentages are "wonderful numbers," according to President Hoekstra, Dordt's community extends far beyond alumni.

Dordt's student body, this year, represents 25 countries and 34 states, with 60 percent of students hailing from out of state. While the majority of students come from a Reformed church background, 19 denominations and several independent congregations are represented on campus. Forty-four percent of students are Christian Reformed.

"The Reformed community is not a closed community," said Hoekstra. "We try to focus on being welcoming and hospitable so that we don't become insular and exclusive—and so that many more people become Dordt College alumni. Connected alumni children and students with increasingly diverse backgrounds give us the best of both worlds."

education they've received and with the entire Dordt experience," said Baas.

ANNA VISSER ('14)

**SAVE
THESE
DATES**

February 1, 2014

Day of Encouragement

A day to inspire, encourage, and equip God's people for ministry: Fellowship and workshops for elders, pastors, caregivers, deacons, youth leaders, and church members > dordt.edu/doe

June 16-20, 2014

IDEAS: Inter-Disciplinary Explorations Across the Sciences

A five-day college-level exploration in mathematics and science for high school students > dordt.edu/ideas

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BLESSED WITH GROWTH

This year's Dordt College students were able to apply for 53 more scholarships than students could apply for in 2010. Eight new scholarships are already finalized for the next academic year, with more in process.

The Scholarship Donor Banquet held on campus on September 27 was one of the best possible indications of this growth. Held for years in the Campus Center, it was moved to the Recreation Center last year to accommodate the growing group of donors and students.

"We designated a major part of the Vision 2020 Campaign to scholarships because we're committed to keeping a Dordt College education affordable for all students," says John Baas, vice president for college advancement. Development representatives continue to make donors aware of the variety of ways they can fund scholarships.

"People want to make a difference in an individual student's life. They want to help someone who might not be able to attend Dordt College without scholarships," says Director of Financial Aid Michael Epema.

Dordt currently has 96 endowed scholarships and 90 annually funded scholarships, but it is the annually funded ones that are increasing most rapidly. Over the past four years, 43 out of 56

COSTS BY THE DECADE

A look back at academic catalogs at the turn of each decade gives another indicator of the increase and importance of scholarships.

Year	Tuition	Room/Board	Scholarships
1969-70	\$1,200	\$630	Dordt funded: \$75-\$300
1979-80	\$2,600	\$1,100	Dordt funded: \$75-\$300 7 donor funded: \$125-\$300
1989-90	\$6,400	\$2,040	Dordt funded: \$500-\$3500 37 donor funded: \$125-\$1000
1999-00	\$12,500	\$2,600	Dordt funded: \$500-\$7500 61 donor funded: \$125-\$1250
2009-10	\$21,720	\$6,010	Dordt funded: \$100-\$11,000 133 donor funded: \$125-\$5000



A festive atmosphere greeted the 158 donors from Iowa, South Dakota, Arizona, Minnesota, Michigan, Oregon, California, Washington, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Ontario, Canada, at this year's Scholarship Donor Banquet. The number of students representing each scholarship varied. Forty-three of the 52 students who received the Van Klaveren Achievement Grant joined Van Klaverens' tables, and 23 out of 31 students who received the Vander Haag Foreign Students Scholarships joined the Vander Haags. One long-time donor couple, Charles and Gertrude Viss, even had the privilege of sitting with their grandson, the recipient of this year's Viss Mathematics and Science Scholarship.

new scholarships have been funded by annual donations.

That pattern makes sense in a time of low interest rates. It also makes funding a scholarship possible for more people. Setting up a new named scholarship requires a five-year, \$2,000 per year commitment for annually funded scholarship or a contribution of \$40,000 for an endowed scholarship.

"But anyone can contribute to an existing scholarship in any amount and make an important contribution to a student's education," says Epema.

Many donors not only want to make an individual difference with their gifts, they also choose to provide an award to a student in a particular major, a particular geographic area, or some other area of interest.

"We try to write the requirements as broadly as possible to make sure we can always make the award, but we also try to honor donors' wishes as much as possible," Epema says. "When someone wants to fund a scholarship, it's usually for something they're passionate about."



Sophomore Sarah Vander Wal from Manteca, California, received the Larry and Bonnie Oberloh Education Scholarship, one of 17 new donor-funded scholarships for 2013-14. The Oberloh family was represented at the Scholarship Banquet by Heath and Amy Oberloh.

Despite these increases in the number of donor-funded scholarships available, competition for them is intense. The cost of education continues to rise, and federal and state dollars have not kept pace with these increases.

"There are lots of good students who are deserving of support," says Epema.



"Connecting donors with the young people whose lives are affected by a scholarship is a blessing that goes both ways."

—John Baas

SCHOLARSHIP GROWTH: LAST DECADE

2003-04

Annually Funded Scholarships	93
Average Award	\$859.44
Endowed Scholarships	134
Average Award	\$813.99

2008-09

Annually Funded Scholarships	70
Average Award	\$1,403.00
Endowed Scholarships	170
Average Award	\$1,000.15

2013-14

Annually Funded Scholarships	242
Average Award	\$1,609.05
Endowed Scholarships	219
Average Award	\$1,315.13

The annual Donor Scholarship Dinner is a thank you to donors like the Van Belles from the college and from their student recipients. But it is also much more.

"Connecting donors with the young people whose lives are affected by a scholarship is a blessing that goes both ways," says Baas. Donors and recipients get acquainted over dinner then listen to a few students express public thanks and hear performances by others.

"Each year after the dinner, we get calls from donors who want to increase their scholarship because they see the impact it is having. And we get calls from some friends and relatives of current donors who are interested in exploring a giving a gift that so directly affects a student's life," says Baas.

If you would like talk with someone about setting up a new or contributing to an existing scholarship, contact Dave Vander Werf at 712 722-6023 or David.VanderWerf@dordt.edu.

FIRST DEFENDER DAYS IS A SUCCESS

Defender Days showed off the best of Dordt College, as alumni and parents traveled to campus for the first annual celebration bringing both groups together on the same weekend.

On Friday, it was standing room only as students, parents, and alumni jammed the seats of the B.J. Haan Auditorium to worship together in a special Defender Days chapel service. The B.J. Haan Auditorium filled up again Friday evening for the annual Fall Music Festival.



That same weekend we celebrated the class of 1988's 25th reunion, responded as a community to Paul Ten Haken's challenge to integrate faith in the marketplace during the Business Connections Breakfast, and honored our 2013 Distinguished Alumni: Dr. Harry Fernhout and Tammy Walhof. For the second straight year, President Erik Hoekstra assisted student Kyle Lindbergh in another Late Night with the Defenders dunk contest victory.

We hope you can join us for the second annual Defender Days to be held next year on October 17 and 18.

DEFENDERS FOREVER

Defenders serve. Defenders create. Defenders grab hold of dreams, helping build a new reality that begins when we die to ourselves and lean into Christ. We are all Defenders, and we are 18,000 strong, committed to working toward Christ-centered renewal in our lives.

Thank you for the role that you as alumni continue to play in the kingdom of God, contributing to the evolving tapestry of hope that reaches across geographic and ethnic boundaries. Our work has eternal significance, and Defender Nation comes alive when we celebrate the best of who we are by working together in community.

BRANDON HUISMAN ('10), DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Alumni Bits

'60s

Larry Van Essen ('66) recently published *This Poison Called Depression*, describing both the positive and negative effects of his illness. The book is related to his time serving four CRCNA churches. Larry, now retired, lives with his wife, Betty, in Visalia, California.

'70s

Lois (Van Driessen, '72), wife of Pastor **Jim Hoozeveen** ('72, deceased), published a book about what she learned through grieving Jim's death to cancer on March 2, 2012. *Be Still & Know: Breath praying through loss*, is a collection of fifty-two "breath prayers" written during the first year after Jim's death. Lois lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Philip Hoekstra ('71) is a team leader in the research department of Buckman International (Memphis, Tennessee), which received a 2012 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, their second such award. Phil received his M.S. in organic chemistry from the University of Minnesota.

John Roelofs ('72) recently was celebrated for 40 years of faithful service as teacher and coach at Evangelical Christian School in Memphis, Tennessee.



□ **Brenda (Van Maanen, '74)** Bylsma, **Ann (Mejeur, '74)** Kauk, **Joyce (Sportel, '74)** Maas, **Geri (Van Dyk, '74)** Van Ruler, and **Kathy (Koetje, '74)** Bos, gathered for a reunion in June. The five women lived together during their senior year, and when they recently met in Omaha, Nebraska, they shared memories of their time together at Dordt College. All five women became Christian elementary school teachers. Fourteen of their seventeen

PHOTO SUBMITTED



ALUMNI GATHERING

A group of Dordt alumni gathered in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, in July to renew their friendships and remember the time they spent together at Dordt. From left: **Stephanie Kroeze** ('10), **Linda (Kroon) Kroeze** ('82), **Dan Kroeze** ('83), **Mark DeWaard**, **Becky (Butler) DeWaard** ('82), **Jan Siebersma** ('83), **Peter Steiger** ('83), **Shari (Veurink) Postma** ('84), **Myron Postma** ('84), **Ron Kruis** ('82), and **Beth (Van Meekeren) Kruis** ('82).

Alumni Bits

'80s

Denise (Kooi, '80) and Jans Pops ('82) welcome seventeen-year-old Kateryna (Katia) Elizabeth from Ukraine to their family. Katia joined the family of nine siblings in Edmonton, Alberta, in April 2013.

■ **Tim P. Vos ('84)** was recently promoted to associate professor of journalism studies at the University of Missouri. He also has been named Coordinator for Global Research Initiatives at the Missouri School of Journalism.



Graeme Dondale ('83) is in a new role as a sales and project manager with 360 Innovations, a Montreal-based software company that works with configuration programs for windows and doors. Graeme lives in Cambridge, Ontario.

■ **Lynn (DeKruyf, '84)** Otto graduated with an M.F.A. in creative writing from Portland State University in June 2013. She was awarded the 2013 Shelley Reece Poetry Award. After graduation, she served as a writer in residence for the Faith and Story Project at St. David of Wales Episcopal Church in Portland. **Paul Otto ('87)** was awarded a one-month Anthony N.B. and Beatrice W.B. Garvan Fellowship in American Material Culture at the Library Company of Philadelphia. He conducted research for an article titled "Trading in Wampum: Manufacturers and Merchants in the Eighteenth Century." In March, Lynn and Paul spoke through lecture, discussion, and poetry about the intersection of faith and liberal arts at New St. Andrews College in Moscow, Idaho.



JAMIN VER VELDE ('99)



REBEKAH DYKHUIZEN ('15)



GIOVANNA ROMERO SARUBBI ('14)

DEFENDER DAYS SNAPSHOTS



JAMIN VER VELDE ('99)

1. Paul Ten Haken ('00) was the invited speaker at this year's Business Connections Breakfast.
2. Dordt's women's soccer team took on Hastings College on the home field during Defender Days.
3. Saturday night's Distinguished Alumni Banquet celebrated the contributions of two Dordt alumni.
4. The Small Music Festival joined the Fall Music Festival this year, featuring the smaller ensembles.
5. Sophomore Mady Van Soelen takes a shot in the Late Night with the Defenders shooting contest.
6. Members of the class of '88 met for a 25th anniversary reception at the President's House.
7. For Spirit Day, Megan Ludens chose to imitate The Gift.
8. The B.J. Haan Auditorium was packed during a Friday chapel service during Defender Days.

REBEKAH DYKHUIZEN ('15)



4

FRESH FACES



B. Huisman



R. Verwolf



S. Moss

The alumni office received a complete makeover this summer. Three new staff members are creatively serving the college and its alumni. **Brandon Huisman** ('10) is the new director of alumni and external relations (Brandon.Huisman@dordt.edu). **Rachel Verwolf** is the alumni and parent relations coordinator (Rachel.Verwolf@dordt.edu). **Sarah (Groneck, '10) Moss** (Sarah.Moss@dordt.edu) is the career center coordinator, a position newly brought into the alumni office.

They're looking forward to answering your questions and taking your comments and suggestions about alumni, parent, and church relations and events.

7



PHOTO SUBMITTED

5



JAMIN VER VELDE ('99)

6



REBEKAH DYKHUIZEN ('15)

Alumni Bits

'80s

Kim (Van Soelen, '88) Van Es was awarded Northwestern College's first Faculty Inspirational Service Award. The award goes to a faculty member who exceeds expectations, demonstrates her Christian faith, and inspires others. Van Es teaches in the English department.

Linda (Vanden Bos, '89) DeHaai of Platte, South Dakota, recently swam for three days in the Missouri River to raise money for four new clean water wells in India's eastern mountains. DeHaai, who battled breast cancer and says she knows what it is to receive generosity from others, swam to extend generosity to communities that need help.

'90s

Michael (Mike) D. Kooi ('93), is beginning a new role as Division Director For Education in Georgia's Office of Planning and Budget. Mike served as a leader in providing school choice in Florida through charter and other schools and will continue that work in Georgia.

Lorna (Van Zee, '94) and Mike Bomgaars welcomed Sarah Grace on March 22, 2013. Sarah joins three brothers in Centennial, Colorado.

Jennifer (Gesch, '93) and **Brian Huseland** ('95) welcomed Patience Abigail on January 1, 2013. The family lives in Spokane, Washington.

Jennifer (Zomermaand, '02) and **Aaron Imig** ('98) welcomed Arie Judah, born on September 9, 2012. He joins a brother in Salem, Oregon.

Sue (Boersen, '98) and Rob Gruessing welcomed Elianna Lynn, born on August 29, 2013. She joins three older siblings at home.

□ **Renee Hoekstra** ('98) published a book titled *The Emotional Extremist's Guide to Handling Cartoon Elephants: How to Solve Elephantine Emotional Problems without Getting Lost, Stuck, Run Over, Chased, Flattened, Squished, or Abandoned by Your True Cartoons*.



HARRY FERNHOUT:

EDUCATING FOR SHALOM

“Not everyone gets to have a job that feels like it was made for you and you for it.” That’s what Dr. Harry Fernhout (’70) told the King’s University College community at last spring’s retirement festivities honoring his years as president at King’s.

Fernhout didn’t expect to spend his career as a university president. As a student at Dordt in the 1960s, he was in the pre-seminary program. His entire professional life, however, has been in Christian higher education.

“Coming to college, many of us identified ourselves as ‘pre-sems’ because church ministry was the only way we understood kingdom service,” says Fernhout today. “At Dordt, our understanding of calling was enriched and expanded.” He believes that the Christian worldview he absorbed at Dordt helped him and some of his fellow students interested in faithful kingdom service to sift through their gifts to discern whether God was calling them to church ministry or to ministering in another profession.

Following graduation, still intending to go to seminary, Fernhout decided to spend a year studying at the young Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) to “get a better grounding in Christian worldview and philosophy.”

“My sense of calling changed from church ministry to academic service,” he says. He spent five years at ICS completing the

equivalent of a two-year master's program.

"That didn't bother us in those days," he says. "It was the height of the counter-culture movement, and we didn't feel pressured to finish a degree and get on with life." That freedom meant that he and his growing family had to live very simply, but his study gave him a deep grounding in biblical studies and Christian philosophy, a grounding that laid a strong foundation for his graduate and professional work throughout the rest of his life.

From 1975 to 1979, Fernhout worked at the Curriculum Development Center in Toronto, creating biblical studies materials. He immersed himself in understanding and explaining the biblical story of God working in his world.

"Those years were a refining time," he says. They helped him decide to enter a Ph.D. program in the philosophy of education.

"I found that the worldview and philosophical grounding I gained at Dordt and at ICS gave me a leg up on other students," he says, looking back. "It gave me a toolkit with which to analyze and get to the root of significant issues in education."

Values clarification and moral development were big topics in public education in the late 70s. Experts, including Fernhout's adviser at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, were convinced that they could teach values and morality without reference to faith or religion.

"Coming from my corner of the world, there was no such thing as a religiously neutral approach," says Fernhout with a chuckle. He set about trying to articulate his conviction that nothing was neutral in a way that would get a hearing from others. Although his adviser never agreed with him, he came to appreciate

the depth of his argument and, during Fernhout's second year in the program, put him on a panel with the leading expert in the area at the time, Lawrence Kohlberg.

In 1985, Ph.D. in hand, Fernhout joined the faculty at the ICS. In 1990, he became president, giving leadership to many of his former mentors. In 2005, he moved to King's. There he oversaw the development of a strategic plan, clarified the mission and vision of the

"Coming to college, many of us identified ourselves as 'pre-sems' because church ministry was the only way we understood kingdom service. At Dordt, our understanding of calling was enriched and expanded."

—Harry Fernhout

institution, and nurtured a positive relationship with senior leadership, faculty, staff, and students. He was a persuasive spokesman for independent academic institutions with government officials in Alberta, and he worked with a variety of community and educational organizations.

"Education for *Shalom*" was the overarching theme of Fernhout's years at King's. *Shalom*, the Hebrew word for peace, also means justice, fulfillment, and delight. An article honoring Fernhout in the spring 2013 issue of *The King's Connection* magazine describes Fernhout's understanding of *shalom* as, "a vision of every creature in community with every other, living in harmony and security toward the joy and well-being for all." In the same article Dordt Alumna Ellen Vlieg-Paquette ('76), vice

Alumni Bits

'00s

Andrew Compton ('00) recently graduated from UCLA with a M.A. in Near Eastern languages and cultures. **Pamela (Brinks, '99)** Compton also graduated recently, earning her D.M.A. in choral music from USC. Rev. and Dr. Compton both work for Christ Reformed Church in Anaheim, California, where they live with their two daughters, ages 4 and 2.

▣ **Tricia (De Kok, '00)** and Peter Cisneros welcomed William Noel on April 14, 2013. William joins his brother, Lincoln. The family recently moved to Burlington, Washington, where Tricia works from home for the Evangelical Covenant Church.



Kerri (Prins, '00) and **Jason Maas** ('00) announce the birth of Stella Jace on April 22, 2013. Stella joins two older siblings in Bryon Center, Michigan. Jason works as a school psychologist, and Kerri stays home with the children.

Paul Ten Haken's ('00) online marketing firm, Click Rain, made *Inc. Magazine's* list



of 5,000 fastest growing companies and was named the fastest growing company in South Dakota in August. Click Rain was also the small company winner of the Sioux Empire Society for Human Resource Management awards, which acknowledge companies that have made significant strides in employee practices to establish a highly desirable work environment and to recognize them for their leadership, culture, and best practices.

Michelle (DeVries, '00) and Dean Bogda of Kalamazoo, Michigan, announce the birth of Sophia Jan, born on March 19, 2013.

Julie and **Mark Vander Pol** ('00) of Edgerton, Minnesota, welcomed Reuben Gerald on June 23, 2013. Reuben joins a sister and two brothers.

Alumni Bits

'00s

□ **Jill (Vossen, '00)** and Stephanos Bibas welcomed Katherine Cleo on May 15, 2013. She joins three siblings. Jill works as a stay-at-home mom and blogs about her domestic and crafting adventures in a small-town, urban home.



Beth (Vander Ziel, '03) and **Adam Blankespoor ('00)** welcomed Emma Ann, born on May 28, 2013, in Palo Alto, California. Emma's older brother welcomed her home.

Leslie (Cowherd, '01) and **Michael Pastoor ('01)** welcomed Wyatt on June 10, 2012. Wyatt joins three siblings in Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

Amy (Hofman, '01) and **Philip Louters ('01)** of Sheldon, Iowa, announce the birth of Brenna Kaye, born on February 8, 2013. Brenna joins an older brother.

Kareena and **Dale Herredsberg ('01)** announce the birth of Jessa Renee, born on March 19, 2013. They live in Lebanon, Kansas.

Kristin (Hoeksema, '02) and Spencer Seibert welcomed Annika Louise on May 31, 2013. The Seiberts live in Annapolis, Maryland, where Kristin works as a labor and delivery nurse at Anne Arundel Medical Center.



□ **Darcy (Faber, '02)** and **Eric Maas ('03)** announce the birth of Levi William on Sept. 4, 2013. Levi joins his three siblings.

Eric is a CPA at Lamfers & Maas, LLP, and Darcy stays at home with her children in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Janna (Van Swol, '02) and Kelly Herold of Buffalo City, Wisconsin, welcomed Nehemiah Job on June 2, 2013.

Amanda (Kubacki, '02) and **Chris Postma ('02)** of Minneapolis, Minnesota, welcomed James Russell on April 23, 2013.



JAMIN VER VELDE ('99)

Distinguished Alumni do much more than come to campus to be honored at a banquet. They visit and engage students in classes related to their professions and majors. Dr. Harry Fernhout met with education and philosophy classes on Thursday and Friday of Defender Days week.

president of administration and finance at King's, says, "He brought renewal and reconciliation to King's faculty and staff. He is a true servant leader."

Fernhout and his wife, Hilda, moved back to Ontario this summer, to be closer to their children who had been left behind when they moved to Edmonton. They now live within walking distance of their seven grandchildren. Fernhout gave himself a six-month "sabbatical" during which he is taking time to do something else he enjoys—work with his hands. He's spent the past four months remodeling the house they purchased near Toronto.

But Christian higher education is still close to his heart, and he'll find ways to share the experience and the wisdom that experience brings to those who are currently setting directions, implementing visions, and dealing with the challenges that face Christian academic institutions today.

In Canada, one of those challenges is that many Christians don't see the need for a Christian alternative to public higher education.

"We need to grow in profile and numbers," he says.

In both Canada and the United States, the pressure of secularization is strong. In most areas, Christian institutions have to work hard to be recognized as a meaningful partner in the educational

enterprise. It will require leadership, collaboration, articulate advocacy for a pluralist model, and institutions that have a strongly articulated and practiced vision, he believes.

"Worldwide, though, especially in the southern hemisphere, Christian

VISION AND FAITH

Harry Fernhout is not a person to loudly trumpet his ideas and experience, but when asked what he might share with the next generation of Christian leaders in higher education, he offered the following thoughts:

Focus on vision. "It's really important to have a strong and articulate commitment that is shared by board, faculty, and staff. Doing so creates energy and engagement." Fernhout urges educational leaders to ask themselves, often, "What makes it worthwhile to expend all of this energy and these resources on being a Christian institution?"

Focus on faith formation. "We're in the business of transformational education in a deeply spiritual sense, shaping character, nurturing hearts as well as heads." Excited about the global growth of Christian education, he believes that North Americans can learn much from brothers and sisters in the global south who are deeply spiritual and who long to give substance to their academic work. "Because they do not think in dualistic ways, they may have much to teach us," he says.

educational institutions are growing rapidly,” Fernhout says. “These brothers and sisters are facing the challenges that come with starting and implementing a vision, often in places where resources are scarce. They will benefit from others standing alongside them as they develop.”

That’s what gets Fernhout excited about, come December, getting back to work in Christian higher education, in a different capacity and at a different pace. While he has been approached by several people and organizations, he is just now beginning to weigh how to best balance using his gifts and serving others’ needs while still being “retired.”

SALLY JONGSMA



GIOVANNA ROMERO SARUBBI ('14)

At the Distinguished Alumni Banquet, Dr. Harry Fernhout spoke briefly about the role his education played in shaping his life, inspiring many attendees who work at Dordt.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



WEDDING GATHERING

Kelly (Smies, '12) and Kurt Franje ('12) were married on August 10, 2013. Many Dordt alumni, both friends and family, attended the wedding.

Front Row (L to R): **Elise (Wedel, '13)** Brinkerhoff, Jenny Palos, **Amber Bennett ('11), Hannah Clark ('12), Kyle Oostra ('12), Stephanie (Fynaardt, '13)** Oostra, **Michelle (Steiger, '12)** Haan, **Kurt Franje ('12), Kelly (Smies, '12)** Franje, **Katie (Smies, '08)** Ellens, **Cody Ellens ('07), Elaine (Mobach, '12)** Niesen, **Ana Lu Mora Demestri ('12), Sarah Franje ('10), Carrie Goff ('12), Sharon (Schreur, '06)** Smies, **Brian Smies ('06), Melody Franje ('76), Gayle (Franje, '83)** Collins

Second Row: **Josh Brinkerhoff ('13), Chris Bylsma ('14), Justin Struik ('10), Justin Knutson ('12), Kevin Haan ('11), Jonathan Slaber ('12), Rachel Verwolf, Brian Verwolf ('12), Troy Ellens ('10), Jeff Niesen ('11), Kevin Franje ('08), Rebecca (Franje, '06)** Bogaard, **Danie Franje ('14), Devin Veenstra ('14), Deb (Draayer, '80)** De Nooy

Third Row: **Mary DuMez ('13), Danae Geels ('13), Lindsay (Hannink, '13)** Couperus, **Nathanael Couperus ('12), Kathy (Boogman, '82)** Franje

Fourth Row: **Steven De Lawyer ('12), Stephen Pederson ('12), Scot Smies ('79), Tim Franje ('81)**

Alumni Bits

'00s

□ **Pam (Maas, '03) and Nate Gallaher ('03)** welcomed

Kelsey Joy on July 29, 2013. Kelsey joins two siblings. Nate works for the Tulip City Agency, and Pam stays at home with their three children in Pella, Iowa.



Nicole (Vos, '03) and Scott ('04) Kallemeyn of North Liberty, Iowa, welcomed Levi Douglas, on May 12, 2013.

Sandy and **Greg LeMahieu ('03)** welcomed Blake Calvin, born on January 11, 2013, in Oostburg, Wisconsin.

Karen (Memmelaar, '03) and Dave Kimble ('03) announce the birth of Luke Emmett, born on February 20, 2013, in Evanston, Wyoming.

Sheresa ('03) and John Wilson-De Vries welcomed Eli Pierre Kaleta and Raya Francisc Mbuyi from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The family united on June 30, 2012, and lives in Auburn, Indiana.

□ **Alicia (Walhout, '03) and Ryan Van Der Bill ('03)**

welcomed Rusty Silas on June 4, 2013. Rusty joins three siblings in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Elena (Bakker, '03) and Peter Nanninga ('04), of Corona, California, announce the birth of Oliver Simon, born on June 30, 2013. Oliver joins an older brother.

Cheryl (Deelstra, '04) and Aaron Thompson welcomed Vivian Annalise. Vivian joined her parents and sister on January 25, 2013, in Essex, Ontario.

Katie (Hoekstra, '04) and Kyle Van Arendonk ('04), of Baltimore, Maryland, announce the birth of Hadley Sue on March 3, 2013. Hadley joins two older sisters.

TAMMY WALHOF: ADVOCATE FOR THE HUNGRY

For Tammy Walhof ('86), knowing that hunger and poverty do not match God's vision for his world gives purpose and passion to her work as a regional coordinator for Bread for the World.

"I understand that God is at work redeeming, restoring, and transforming all parts of this fallen world," she says. "I love that I can offer people a vision of God working here and now through organizations and people to transform structures that contribute to poverty in our society."

That vision gives hope not only to her, but also to people who live in poverty.

"We are all created in the image of God, even if we are a poor reflection of that image. Knowing how deeply God cares for each image bearer is very motivating for me to do the transformational work

of changing the systems, structures, and conditions that keep people poor and hungry," she says.

Walhof recalls a conversation she once had in an airport line with a professed Christian who said that maybe Christians should help make things worse in this world so that Christ would return more quickly. Such a hopeless view of a Christian's role in the world is something that Walhof cannot understand or accept. The fact that the world is "messed up" does not need to lead to hopelessness.

"I can see God at work: through me, through Bread for the World, through World Renew, and through so many other people and organizations," she says.

Following graduation, Walhof earned a master's degree at the State University

"We are all created in the image of God, even if we are a poor reflection of that image. Knowing how deeply God cares for each image bearer is very motivating for me..."

—Tammy Walhof

of New York at Binghamton and worked as a legislative researcher in Albany. The following year she began working for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (now World Renew), first working as a community developer with Haitian sugarcane worker families and then as a project director in Nicaragua.

Walhof has worked for Bread for the World's Midwest office in Minneapolis for the past 18 years, the first 12 as a regional organizer and the last five



GIOVANNA ROMERO SARUBBI ('14)

Distinguished Alumna Tammy Walhof gets most excited about making complex economic issues understandable to local church, campus, or community groups, and then empowering those groups to take action on the issues.

Alumni Bits

'00s

□ **Naomi (Elgersma, '04)** and **Michael Schout ('04)** welcomed Lydia Joy on January 25, 2013. Lydia joins her two siblings in Caledonia, Michigan.



Denise (VerBeek, '04) and **Wilbert Talen ('06)** of Union Road, Prince Edward Island, welcomed Mataya Anne on May 17, 2013. She joins an older brother.

Brian Vander Ley, ('05) DVM, Ph.D., ACVPM, was recently promoted to assistant professor at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Brian earned a Ph.D. from Iowa State in 2012. Over the summer, Brian achieved Diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine. Brian and **Katie (VanEngen, '05)** have three children.

Emily (Van't Hul, '05) and Kris Ostrander welcomed Lincoln John in Rock Rapids, Iowa, on June 6, 2013.

Mandy (Phelps, '05) and Dan Aardsma welcomed Jay Louis, born March 14, 2013. They live in Munster, Indiana.

Amy and **Gerrit Wieringa ('05)** announce the birth of Madeline, born June 26, 2012, in Munster, Indiana.

Stephanie and **Russell Van Boom ('05)** of Sturgeon Country, Alberta, welcomed Heidi on March 5, 2013.

Jennifer Baas ('06) recently completed her residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine—Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. She and her husband are preparing to work as physicians in Africa. They have a five-month-old daughter.

Rachel (Eckardt, '06) and **Josh Super ('06)** announce the birth of Lydia Grace Eckhardt Super, born on June 3, 2013, in Iowa City, Iowa.

Alumni Bits

'00s

Elisanna (Bell, '06) and Eric Carrai announce the birth of Zoey Lyn, born June 14, 2013, in Farmingdale, New York.

Julie (De Berg, '06) and **Michael ('06) Zwart** welcomed Isaac Jon on February 19, 2013. He joins a sister. Michael works as a Lab Analyst for Avera McKennan, and Julie is an RN at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Lessa and **Ryan Trosper ('07)** announce the birth of Rhya Mae, born May 4, 2013, in Ordway, Colorado. Ryan recently earned his master's degree in history from Colorado State University—Pueblo.

Amy (Andriese, '07) and **Aaron Tazelaar ('07)** of Ripon, California, welcomed Ashton Noah, born on June 19, 2012.

Roshelle (Hazeu, '07) and **Calvin Doornbos ('07)** announce the birth of Titus Jude, on May 1, 2013, in Delavan, Wisconsin.

Sarah (Schoenfeld, '07) Shunk married John Shunk on June 29, 2013, in Waseca, Minnesota. They live in Williston, North Dakota, where Sarah teaches second grade.

□ **Amanda (Niewenhuis, '08)** and Jason Van Driessen of Hawarden, Iowa, announce the birth of Ember Jayde, born on April 20, 2013. Amanda is working part time at Vanessa Bartels' Generations Portraiture of Orange City, Iowa.



Angela (DeGroot, '08) and **Cody See ('08)** welcomed Mackenzie Joy on May 27, 2013, in Ontario, California.

Kerri (Ewald, '08) and **David Posthuma ('08)** of Smithers, British Columbia, announce the birth of Amber Skye, born on January 30, 2013.

Kristina (Tina) and **Brady Kroeze ('08)** welcomed Spencer Declan, born on June 27, 2013, in Sioux Center, Iowa. Spencer joins a brother.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



One of Tammy Walhof's favorite verses in the Bible is Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." She has worked with Bread for the World since 1995.

as Senior Organizer. In that role she helped set up action networks in all 23 congressional districts in the five states of the Upper Midwest leading to nearly 30,000 contacts with members of Congress every year. She also gives between 60 and 100 presentations and workshops on hunger and poverty issues each year.

These actions have helped contribute to reducing hunger for 400 million people since the early 1990s and have helped provide access to primary school education for hundreds of millions of children, she says.

"God is working in all of history and he uses both his followers and non-Christians to work his will in the world. We can see this through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were adopted in 2000 for dramatic poverty reduction worldwide. Having so many people and entities—governments, nonprofits, businesses, wealthy people, poor people, Christians, and those of other faiths or no faith at all—come together in the hundreds of millions to work for poverty reduction worldwide can only be evidence of the Spirit of God at work in the world. I'm honored and excited that God has chosen me to be one of the many in that work!" she says.

Walhof points to glimpses of God's kingdom coming and already here: nearly all children of primary school age are now in school; the number of children under age five who die of hunger or related causes each day is down from 40,000 when she started this work, to 16,000-18,000 (although the worldwide economic crisis has caused a backward slide); the fact that more than 10 million

FOR STUDENTS

Walhof believes Dordt gave her something special. To today's students she says

- Soak up everything possible while in college: academic classes, volunteer opportunities, clubs, Bible studies, music groups, and more. At the same time, constantly question and challenge your mentors and each other about how and why God is giving you these experiences, and how God wants you to live out what you've learned on a daily basis, in everything you do, for the rest of your lives.
- Worshiping in community is important, and the fellowship of believers is an important "jumping off" place into community outreach. Get involved in the life of a local church and encourage those churches in outreach and mission to the local community and in God's broader world.
- God wants to work through you to accomplish his will in the world. It doesn't matter what your major is, God has big plans for you.
- Politics isn't a dirty process in which Christians shouldn't participate for fear of being tainted. Rather, political structures and policy decisions are in need of redemption and transformation.
- God gives a pretty clear vision of what he wants the world to look like, and how he wants us to live (see Isaiah 58, Matt. 25:31-46, Luke 4:18-21, and the Old Testament prophets).
- We are called to be advocates for a different vision, even with our political leaders. We can be like the advocates Moses, Esther, and the prophets were in their day, and like Jesus with the scribes and Pharisees (who were political leaders, in addition to being religious leaders). With the Spirit of God working in and through us, we can call our leaders and our society back to justice and righteousness (a right relationship with God and neighbor), and we can demonstrate the supersized version of righteousness and justice by loving God and loving others.

children are alive.

"The Dordt vision of encouraging students to think, question, and prepare for Christ's calling in God's big world helped prepare me for my lifelong

passions and work in some very special ways," she says. Her faith, like the vision she learned at Dordt and like her calling, is completely interwoven and integrated through everything she does, especially in her work to bring wholeness to those who are impoverished and hungry.

"I greatly appreciate what Dordt taught me about Christian service, and how through so many different aspects of my life at Dordt, it was modeled and I was taught that God's call touches everything. When I was in high school (a public school), I felt constantly challenged to help people understand why my faith made me different. I could explain it well, but Dordt helped me take it to a different deeper level."

As a student at Dordt in the 1980s, Walhof participated in service projects that helped her to better see God's hand moving and working, and working

through her. In political science and history classes, she came to see how sin has distorted structures that should act as instruments of justice and to imagine world governments working better and differently when transformed by God's grace to act more as they should.

"The Dordt vision of encouraging students to think, question, and prepare for Christ's calling in God's big world helped prepare me for my lifelong passions and work in some very special ways."

—Tammy Walhof

She concluded her comments at the Alumni Banquet saying, "Isn't it neat that I get to work on these issues? Even if I wasn't at Bread for the World, this is what I would be doing. It's the special work to which God has called me!"

SALLY JONGSMA

Alumni Bits

'00s

Rachel (Daale, '08) and Zachary Cordel welcomed Elliot Simon, born on February 14, 2013. They live in Clovis, New Mexico.

■ **Melissa (Hulstein, '09)** and Tyler Knobloch announce the birth of Taryn Nicole, born on May 8, 2013, in Sioux Center, Iowa. Melissa is a dance instructor and choreographer.



Kelsi (Kamper, '09) and **Jonathan Van Keulen ('09)** welcomed Wyatt Case, born on August 27, 2013, in Surrey, British Columbia.

Krista (Van Essen, '09) and **Joel Sikkema ('09)** welcomed Terran Declan on July 9, 2013. He joins his sister in Sioux Center, Iowa. Joel teaches engineering at Dordt.

'10s

Becca (Schelhaas, '10) and **Brent Van Schepen ('10)** announce the birth of Hannah Jo on January 16, 2012, in Oostburg, Wisconsin.

Jon Trueblood ('11) completed a master's degree at North Carolina State University in May 2013. Jon is now pursuing his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Iowa.

Adrianna Oudman ('11) graduated with a master's degree in linguistics and exegesis from ACTS Seminary at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia. She was nominated as one of three candidates from her class for the Gold Medal Award.

Eric Tudor ('12) won the "Midwest Omnium Flyover Series" this summer. The 16-stage event spanning five weekends in five Midwestern cities, is the premier amateur cycling series in the midwest. Tudor works as an admissions counselor at Dordt.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



DEFENDER SPIRIT ON DISPLAY

Dordt Alumni Dan Beckering ('01), (left) principal at Southwest Christian High School near Minneapolis; Craig Veurink ('93) (right), a Southwest parent; and prospective student Britta Provart, wore their Defender spirit for a photo taken with Uncle Si Robertson and Pastor Al Robertson at a Duck Dynasty event in Minneapolis.



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